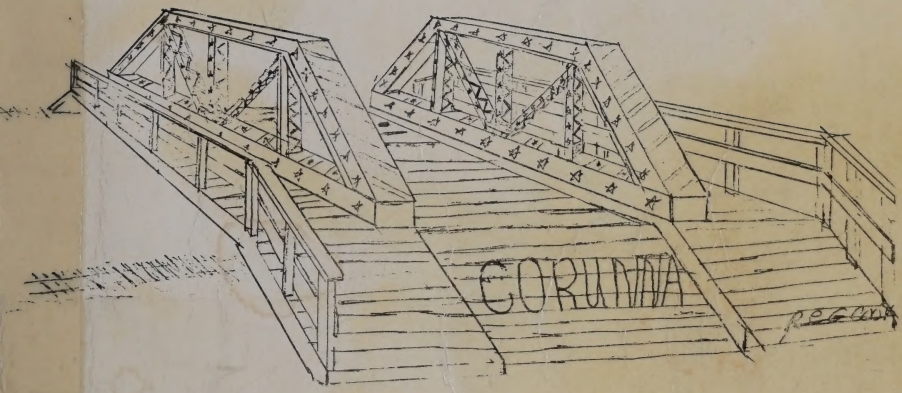
"MAKING LOCAL HISTORY LIVE"

in conjunction with

THE NATIONAL BI - CENTENNIAL



covering

RICHLAND & FAIRFIELD

TOWNSHIPS

and

THE TOWN OF CORUNNA

DEKALB
CORUNNA
LOCAL
HISTORY
B11

SPONSORED BY

A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

AND

CORUNNA FIREMEN LADIES AUXILIARY

FOR THE

CORUNNA FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

JUNE 18, 19, 20, and 21, 1975

* * * * * * * * * *

FESTIVAL MOTTO

WE'LL COME TO YOUR FIRE! ** JOIN US AT OUR FESTIVAL!

WELCOME TO CORUNNA

The people now residing in Corunna and Richland and Fairfield Townships appreciate this opportunity to, in some small measure, remember and commemorate the labor of the builders of our community. We, of the Fire Department and Auxiliary, are happy to have you join us in this celebration. We trust you will enter into the spirit of the festivities and enjoy yourself.

And to those and their descendents who, havethrough long years of labor and industry, have made us what we are today and have given us what we have; we respectfully bow our heads and say a grateful AMEN!

* * * * * * * * * *

We, the Festival Committee, would like to express appreciation to everyone who has in any way contributed to the preperation of this Festival and the printing of this book.

Syrene Stahl, Chairman of Festival Committee
Mary Lou Cook, Secretary of Committee
Jay Christian, President Volunteer Fire Dept.
Linda Stahl, Women's Auxiliary President
Mike Mayberry
Julie Leins, Assistant Secretary of Committee
Mike Odem
Dave and Debbie Schluser
Melody Rowe
LeRoy and Teresa Mosley
Jean Sliger, Book Chairman

* * * * * * * * * *

In dedicating this book, we wanted to give that hon-
r to someone we consider had helped the town, Corunna.
As far as the Fire Dept. and Auxiliary are concerned
e couldn't choose anyone other than the Albrights.
Considering hou much they have done for the town of
orunna by donating their old grocery store to the town
or a meeting hall and a fire station, I think they
ell deserve that honor!



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The picture above was give to me by Lois' mother,
da Farrington, and was taken at their store when they
ere celebrating Jack's birthday.

Lois Farrington is a native of Richland Twp. and at-
ended East and West Richland Schools. She graduated
rom Waterloo High School in 1943 and attended Indiana
niversity Medical School of Nursing, graduating from
loomington in 1946. She worked in Area Hospitals for
ight years and is still keeping her nursing skills up
o date.

Jack Albright attended Waterloo High School and in
942, graduated. While there, he was active in basket-
all and other sports. He attended Indiana Central Col-
ege for one year and then joined the Merchant Marines
here he served 4 years.

Jack and Lois were married Dec. 28, 1946. Jack work
d in several different shops until Aug. 1, 1954, when
hey bought the store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond
oster, which they remodeled and developed into a large
upermarket.

In 1969, they built a new store and moved into it in
ctober of '69. It is located on the corner of U.S. 6
nd 327 and draws customers from all over the county.

Jack and Lois are the parents of 2 sons, David and
ritz and 2 daughters, Kay and Suzanne.

The whole family work in the grocery store and they
ake great pride in serving the community.

From the town of Corunna, We'd like to say 'Thank
ou' for trying to make Corunna a better placed to
ive!

To every book, their must be a beginning! In this book centered around the town of Corunna, and Richland and Fairfield Townships, we must use material already gathered in older books for the background material we wish to use. If we jump to other townships in our county, it is necessary to lay the foundation for our own territory.

The generation of today scarcely recognizes the incalcuable services of the early settlers. All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. And too todays generation, may I say personally that I hope you have as much success in exploring the universe, as the past generations have had in exploring their universe.

Many of us won't be around to enjoy the success of our children and grandchildren, but every success you make, means that you have reaped some of the harvest that your parents have tried to instill in you.

Prominence is therefore given all the more to those worthy pioneers who migrated by wearisome journey to reach and build a home in a vast, unbroken wilderness. With resolution the settler swung his ax, whose strokes brought down from time to time, with thunderous crash, the forest monarchs; but with what feelings did his wife survey the scanty means of shelter, and how depressing to live in the solitude, however beautiful; what wonder if at times the lip trembled and tears fell as dear remembrance came of friends and kindred far removed, perchance forever.

The memory of the enterprise shown and hardihood required in early settlement, though vivid in the minds of survivors, will soon be gone beyond recovery. It is no puerils task to rescue from oblivion a recore of early events, and chronicle the progress of settlement. From a trackless wilderness of mixed forests and prairies, it has come to be the center of a fertile and truly beautiful garden spot of civilized life and culture, with millions of wealth teaming on every hand, with vast major highways and systems of intersecting railroads covering the whole county, it is truly as their names imply "Fair Fields and Rich Lands."

Even though the town of Corunna did not develope as it was hoped, their are still several businesses abounding in the town and surrounding territory.

Many large dairy farms are located in both townships and several large beef herds are located in each township. There are pigs, sheep, and fowl of all kind beside all the grain that is harvested.

As my husband has often said, "Even though I've veled through several states, I'm still glad to be in Indiana, as I still think it's the best farm- land around."

I can't say I've had much experience in printing this d of a book, but I'll try to do the best I can to e it interesting for you. I would have liked to have more time to work on getting information for you, since that wasn't possible, I've gathered together books I could find and borrowed pictures from var- s sources and would like to thank each one of them sonally. I would also like to thank Mrs. Orris Wise all the help she has give me.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER
Written by Will Allen Droomgoogle

An Old man going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide
Through which was flowing a sullen tide;
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way,
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He too must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

*****

I think the above poem is very appropriate! If only yone would take the time to do something to leave next generation, it would take very little of our e, but would be priceless to the future generations.

Mrs. Robert Sliger

THE MOUND-BUILDERS

Prior to the occupation of that part of the wilderness now comprised in the lands of DeKalb, by roving tribes of savages, there are evidences existing of a mysterious race whose earth-built tumuli have given them the name of Mound-Builders.

Many facts relating to this prehistoric people in this locality, were gathered by R. West McBride, of Waterloo. Our county appears to be populated in all of our townships as shows by traces of their handiwork.

Usually the mounds are circular, about twenty-five feet in diameter and something over three feet high. They are situated on high ground near a stream, a lake shore, or near a marsh, which, once a lake, has gradually formed a treacherous morass or the dreaded sinkholes known to railroad engineers. Messrs. McBride and Barns examined two mounds located one-fourth mile to the Northwest of Waterloo, on the farm of David Goodwin. These mounds are on the east bank of a marshlake; they are about twenty-five feet in diameter and were nearly five feet high. In the first, sepulture had been given to many bodies promiscuously heaped on the ground. Over this pile, earth and stone had been covered, and on the new surface fires had been lighted, the charcoal being, in places, above half a foot in depth. The bones of the buried were those of male adults, and the crushed skull of one indicated a death by violence. Above the charcoal was a second layer of earth and stones. The other mound, larger and more symmetrical, contained the remains of but one. No relics, save fragments of pottery, part of an arrow-head and a piece of mother of pearl were found, and the bones crumbled when exposed to the air.

Other mounds were found on different places in the County. There is a mound on land owned by Henry Gomer, in Fairfield Township, where there were found bones and charcoal. In Smithfield Twp., on the farm of Mr. Kepler, are three mounds, in one of which was found a quantity of charred corn in a state of preservation. On the farm of Mr. Ruffner, is a circular earthwork having a circumference of about two hundred yards. The embankment is in places two and a half feet high, and is surrounded by a ditch. To the northeast and southwest are entrances, and large trees stand on bank and ditch. In the collections of Messrs. McBride and Barns, are pipes, axes, hatchets, daggers, knives, arrow-heads, spearheads, pestles, ornaments, and many other articles formed of copper and of stone. These relics gathered in DeKalb are evidense of artistic skill, are handsomely finished, wrought from hard stone and show a patient drudgery, foreign to Indian character, and in keeping with a perished unknown race.

THE INDIANS

The aboriginal occupants of this section belonged to the tribe known as Pottawatomies. There were about four thousand living in Northern Indiana. They had no villages in DeKalb but encamped in various places contiguous to game and wild fruit. From 1835 to 1838, bands of these people wandered from place to place and became well known to the early settlers, and their disposition was, in the main, peaceable.

Many of the settlers had never seen an Indian, but they had read and heard much of their savage barbarity. They were an object of terror to many of the settlers, especially to the women and children. An article written by Rev. S.W. Widney, tells of a night in the fall of 1837, spent in terror of the Indians. "I had been in the country six months, but as yet had seen very few of them. My widowed mother with six children, younger than myself, (and I not yet 17 years of age,) bought and settled on the farm belonging to Dr. Babcock. Here an Indian trail crossed the river, and on the other side was a house where liquor was sold. Soon after nightfall, the real "whoops" were heard away in the South woods, and increased in volume, till our fears pictured a whold army of savages coming to murder us! We put out all the lights; fastened the doors, and concealed ourselves in different parts of the house. Soon the Indians were trampling around the house, and their torches gleaming through the window. We almost held our breath with fear. Soon however they passed by, down to the river, and taking our canoe, crossed over, and their whoops died away-drowned in the Indians favorite beverage "good old rye." But our rest was spoiled for the night, as we continually dreaded their return.

Afterwards, however, we became better acquainted with the "poor Indian" as a camp of some 40 men, squaws and "papooses,"spent four or five weeks in their tents, within twenty rods of the house-visiting us, or we them daily. The men spent their time in hunting, dressing their game, gambling, or lying around the fire like dogs. The women chopped the wood, made the fires, and waited on their lords and masters, while the children shot birds with their bows and arrows. Joe Richardville, son of the celebrated Chief, was in the camp, dressed partly in the European costume. His college education failed to make anything of him but an Indian."

During fall and spring, the cranberry swamps supplied the berries, which were traded to the settlers, and venison was often exchanged for bread.

By the conditions of a treaty with the Pottawatomie Tribe, the 6th of August, 1838, was the time stipulated for their removal to the Indian Territory, beyond the Mississippi. The Indians clung to their homes with the tenacity of despair, and a display of armed force was necessary to prevent an outbreak. Their journey was as

a funeral train, and many deaths along the route attested their love of the burial-place of their ancestors. By 1840, save here and there a straggler, the Indians and departed, their lands were left to the incoming whites, and their occupation of this region, a matter of history.

PUBLIC LANDS

After the Indians had been removed from their land, title to the soil being vested by purchase in the Government of the United States, the lands were divided by survey into townships of thirty-six square miles each. These divisions are known as Congressional townships, and respectively contain 23,040 acres. Townships are sub-divided into thirty-six tracts, called sections, each a mile square. A full section contains 640 acres. Sections are numbered, commencing with one in the northeast corner, counting west, then east, and closing with thirty-six in the southeast corner. Sectional corners are marked by stones planted at the point of intersection. Section No. 16 of each township was set apart for the maintenance of schools, and the proceeds of their sale in DeKalb County are invested, under direction of the County Auditor, in mortgages on farms in the county. The sixteenth of a section, or a square having an area of forty acres, was the smallest purchase which could be made from the Government. There was no restriction to the extent of investment in public land. A quarter-section was the average purchase, at the uniform price of $1.25 per acre, regardless of location or quality.

The land was secured to the original purchaser by patent from the United States, which patent is recorded in the General Land Office which was located at Fort Wayne. The first Governmental survey of our county was in 1829. A re-survey was had in 1832.

Many of the farms of DeKalb County are held by those who bought from the Government, and occasionally the old parchment or animal skin deeds, bearing the signature of Martin Van Buren, who was President when the land of this region was entered, are brought out, and title is demanded. If you will turn to page 80 and 81, there is an original land grant granted to George Dearborn in 1836. It was given to me to use by Mrs. Roy Leins who owns that section of land today.

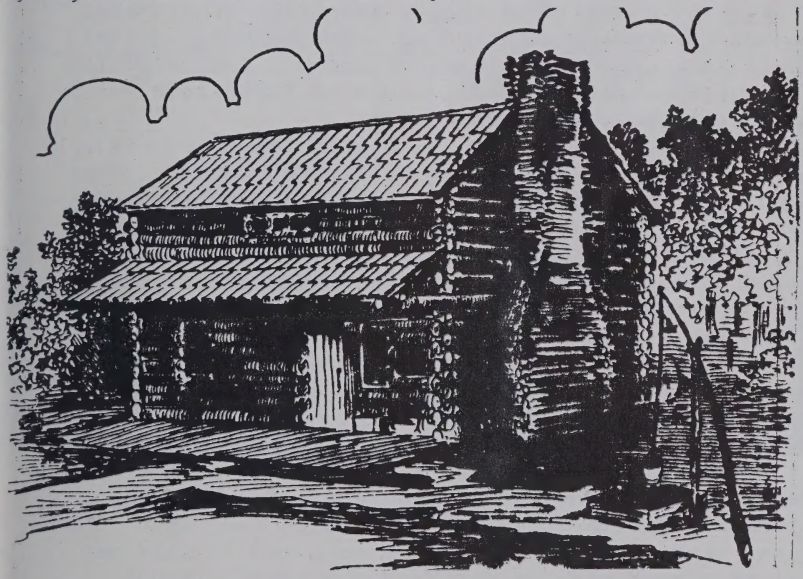
THE HORRORS OF LAND HUNTING

In many instances, the early settlers made many trips to the Land Office in Fort Wayne, usually by feet to lay claim to a plot of ground they had decided on, only to find that it was already sold. They then had to goback to the area that they were interested in and try again for another section.

A Mr. Isaac B. Smith had made three trips to Fort Wayne, all of which were unsuccessful and returned to Pleasant Lake where he researched for more land. Tired in body, and heartsick with hope deferred, he met a man at the land office, from Wells County, who stated that he knew of a very good quarter-section in that region still vacant. The Register vouching for the veracity of the man, Smith made entry and went on foot to where he found the tract an unbroken cottonwood swamp, boot-deep with water. He returned to the land office again and was told that he had to claim a new piece of land within a week's time or would have to keep the original property. All in all, he made eight trips to Ft. Wayne before he was successful, and secured his land. He traveled approximately 300 miles on foot to Ft. Wayne, beside all the walking he did in each township looking over the land to try and secure a best possible site.

THE EARLY PIONEERS OF DEKALB COUNTY

One of the first white settlers to build a house in DeKalb County was John Houlton. On February 5, 1833, he married Sarah Fee and in September following came on with three men, a yoke of oxen and tools, to the forty acres he had entered in Franklin township, and in four days, the party had cut the logs for, and raised the first house built in this county. It is pictured below and I imagine many of the early homes built in the early days were built the same way.



The log cabin of the pioneer consisted usually of one room, from sixteen to twenty feet square, one story of about eight feet in height, and covered with rough

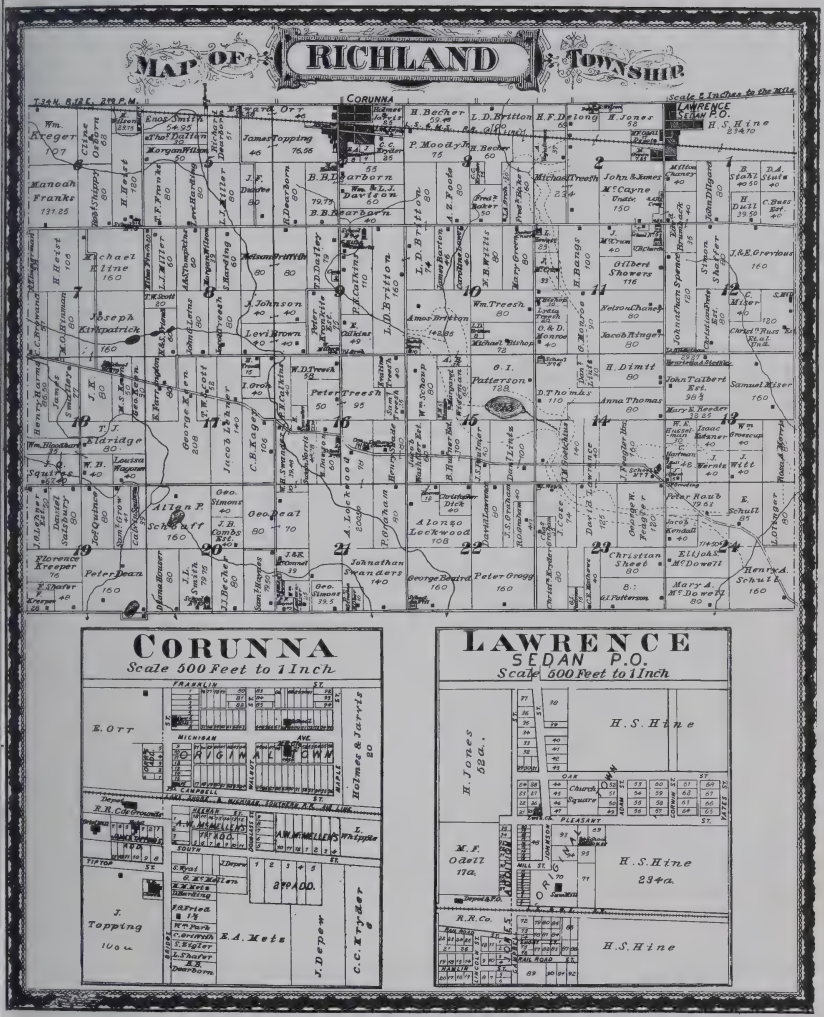
boards split from one of the large white-oaks which over shadowed the site where the cabin was raised. The walls were of logs hewed perhaps, on one side, and notched together at the corners. The openings between the logs were chinked and then plastered with a stiff mortar made of clay. The chimney was built of rough stones gathered from the vicinity, or of alternate layers of lath-like sticks and mud. The floor was laid of split logs, with flat side up. Quilt, blanket or clapboards formed the door, and the windows were formed with glass or greased paper to let in light.

The fire-place was wide, and the hearth was of clay well beaten down. To build a winter fire, a large back log was put into the fire-place; upon it the back-stick, a smaller log, was laid; upon the andirons was placed the fore-stick, and between it and the back-log, dry limbs were piled in; and the fire thus built, which was usually done as a chore about 4:00 o'clock in the after noon, would last a whole day with little attention, keeping the family and visitors, clad in good, warm homespun, comfortably warm.

The furniture of the pioneer was rude and simple. For bedsteads, poles were fixed in the wall, with basswood bark for a cord. For chairs square pieces of puncheon supported by rough sticks inserted in sugerholes were common, and the table was like the chairs only on a larger scale.

The queensware consisted of a few plates, cups and saucers, with a small but choice selection of tinware, which was tastefully arranged on a rough shelf against the wall as a cupboard. A spider and pot completed the inventory of household goods, and with these rude surroundings the settlers were content.

"Iknow," says Mr. Widney, "a highly respected citizen of this county, who is now considered wealthy, that between the first of Jan., 1837, and the first day of May following, chopped off five acres of heavy timber, taking it nearly all down, burned the brush, rolled the logs and burned them off, split the rails and carried them to their place on the fence on his shoulders; and thus had his field cleared off and well fenced by the time mentioned above, without having a team in the land except one day, to draw the remmants of log heaps together. His wife was his sole help, he chopping and she picking the brush. Many nights he worked by moonlight until quite late. When I visited him on the sixth day of May, he and his wife were digging holes among the roots with hoes, and putting in seed corn. The crop was tended entirely with the hoe; and in this way he raised a good crop of corn and potatoes, without having a plow in the field. Other people planted with a sharp handspike into the rich soil diagonally, drew it out, drop in the seed, and step on it to plant it."


MAP OF RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
CORUNNA
LAWRENCE
SEDAN P.O.
H. S. Hine
234 a.
H. Jones
82 a.
M. F. Odell
17 a.
E. A. Metz
J. Topping
100 a.
J. Depew
C. C. Kryger
CORUNNA
Scale 500 Feet to 1 Inch
LAWRENCE
SEDAN P.O.
Scale 600 Feet to 1 Inch

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Richland Township is located sectionally in the Western tiers of the townships of DeKalb County. It is bounded on the north by Fairfield Township, on the east by Union and Grant, on the South by Keyser Township,and on the West by Allen Township in Noble County. Little Cedar runs diagonally from the Northwest corner, by the center to the South line about midway of said line east and west, and also several smaller streams that are tributaries to this stream and several small lakes. This supplies the water supplys for the land and Twp.

Richland Twp. is not the best for agriculture, the land being very hilly with sandy and clay upper soil. The clay is of excellent quality for the making of brick and various kinds of tile. Beech, ash, oaks, maples and poplar with a little walnut were the prevailing woods, but these have been largely cleared off.

The Lake Shore and Michigan railroad traverses the northern part of the county with stops at the towns of Corunna and Sedan. When the Baltimore and Railroad was formed, it was on the Southern border of Richland Twp. but in June 1876, 12 sections of Richland Twp. were taken from the southern side, reducing it to its 24 sections today. That is where the northern part of Keyser and Garrett are located today.

Richland was organized as a civil township in September, 1837 as a whole Congressional Twp. and Jacob Weirick was appointed its first supervisor. At the first election held, but six votes were cast, and William Showers was elected Justice.

The first settler in the Township was Joseph Miller, who, during August, 1836, cut his way in from his fathers clearing in Jackson, and located on the land later sold to and occupied by George Olinger two miles west and one half mile south of Auburn,now part of Keyser. Previous to moving his family in, he had chosen a site for a cabin; then one day he cut logs, the next day he made the clapboard lengths, then split it into bolts, and chopped them in two before riving. He had no saw, so had to chop off the timber. He and two other men put up the house without any further assistance on the third day.

Mr. Miller, Mr. Vansickle, and Obadiah Whitmore without any other help, also put up a house for Jacob Weirick. Mr. Weirick and Joshua Feagler moved in in October, 1836. Mr. Feagler passed his life upon this place, and his name is perpetuated by the name "Feagler Corners" applied to the intersection of roads. Weirick's entry was the land which later became the property of Peter Raub.

Calvin Calkins set out in the fall of 1839, from Sandusky County, Ohio, on foot, with a knapsack on his back to carry his provisions, and arriving in this town

ship, selected a quarter-section, or two eighties, lying on the present road south of Corunna. He learned that another land-hunter had chosen part of the same lands, and made the best time possible to the land office at Fort Wayne, and was scarcely half an hour in advance of his competitor. He built his home and moved his family in during June, 1840.

Neighbors were few and scattered. Peter Kronkite, who had come during the previous fall, had a cabin in the woods on his entry of land, adjoining Calkins on the West, and Peter Moody had lacated previously on land about a mile east of Corunna, and had begun a small clearing about his cabin.

In the northeast part of the township was the "Showers settlement." Solomon Showers being the pioneer was called upon to give lodging to many a settler who moved into the locality to set up a home. His cabin was small but room was always found for the incomer and his garden and truck patch of two or three acres indicated to others the initial steps of early settlement.

Lyman Green, for whom the corners south of Sedan are named, Daniel Webber, William Beck, William Showers, and Daniel Showers were others who soon established themselves in this neighborhood. Japlet Ingraham settled where L. D. Britton afterward lived, having purchased it from Samuel Jones, by whom it had been entered as early as 1836, and Peter Treesh made the first clearing of the Amos Britton farm. Thomas Daily moved in from Michigan and settled in the Western part of Richland, and Dimick Harding came from Lima, Ind., and chose a tract for his life-long home. Other early settlers were: The Moodys, Peter, John and Harvey; the Connellys, Ezra, William and John; Samuel Haynes, James Blake Herman Bangs and James McCrom. Henry Willis, afterward Sheriff, and who subsequently settled in Waterloo, came at an early date and located in the northeastern part of the township.

Mr. Willis by chance or choice located on a sugar-timbered tract, and there he gathered the sap from the tall maple trees with neck-yoke and pails, manufactured sugar, and this was exchanged for breadstuffs, sometimes requiring a three-days journey. Indeed they would have fared very poorly had it not been for sugar and saw logs. It was well, indeed, that they had this means of "sweetening" their bitter experiences of pioneer life. Henry Willis moved in by way of Isaac B. Smith's who seems to have kept a kind of emigrant's hotel. From Smith's, he had to cut his own road, requiring all day to get through. He stated that, soon after coming on, he tried in vain to get a pig to buy in the whole county. By way of commendable retaliation, he is now trying to excel the whold country in raising swine - witness the premiums at the last agricultural fair.

The following was taken from a book written by Rev.

S. W. Widney back in 1859 and I thought was kind of cute so will include it here.

"Doubtless, could I see and converse with more of the Richland pioneers, I might have gotton some more incidents to enliven this dull chapter; but time and circumstances will not allow me to wait for further revelations. Those pioneers must blame themselves; if they don't "get their names in the paper," for my will is good enough to publish every mother's son of them: and even to draw "pictures of their log cabins, with holes in the floors," if I may be permitted to borrow the subblime language of a famous writer of our country and age.*(See the DeKalb County Democrat.) As it is however, though with reluctance, I must let these few items in the early history of Richland suffice, and while I heartly thank these two pioneers, Miller and Willis, for the items furnished, I hereby notify all the other pioneers of the Township, that, if at any time they conclude to divulge-make a clean breast of it, and tell me their pioneer experience, it they will kill a fat turkey, roast it, and invite me out to dinner, I will take it as an expiation, receive their confession, and pronounce their absolution, so far as the crime of not furnishing matter for this chapter is concerned. Besides all this, I further promise that, if the turkey is well stuffed, and seasoned, and if the gravy has a sufficiently grateful flavor to my palate, that I will come home, and before the inspiration of the dinner wears off, write a chapter for the sold and exclusive benefit of such repentant pioneers. Now what more can I do, to induce those close-minded "settlers" to divulge?"

This too is taken from Rev. Widneys book, "Richland Township has bully kept pace with the others, in the march of improvement. Though much of its fertile land fell at first into the hands of non-resident speculators, yet a judicious system of taxation, compelled those "landsharks" to sell out to actual settlers, who have subdued the very heavy forests, and are now receiving a rich tribute from the fat soil. Under the administration of the excellent board of township trustees, good frame school houses are being erected in every district. The Airline branch of the Michigan and Northern Indiana Railroad runs through the Northern part of the township. Since this road has been completed, Mr. Hines has laid out the village of Lawrence, (Iba P.O.) and,by a liberal system of donating lots to actual settlers, and of furnishing lumber for building - from his good steam saw mill, he has caused it to improve with great rapidity.

Corunna is another village in this Township, on the Railroad. If I am not mistaken, James Blake Esq., is one of the principal men engaged in pushing it ahead.

f a good country around these two villages, and ener-
etic, thorugh going proprieters can make them cities,
urely that will be their final destiny.
here are three good steam saw mills, and at least two
ropelled by water, in the Township. Two churches have
een erected in its bounds, vix., a Baptist one, on the
ackwoods, gothic style of architecture; and one belong-
ing to the United Brethren, a comfortable frame. The
chool houses, however, are all, so far as I know, open
or religious meetings. Richland is undoubtedly destin-
ed to become as its name denotes, one of the richest
n the county. I must now close this chapter."

In early days, we asked not whether the newcomer was Whig or a Democrat, Jew or Gentile, Methodist or Baptist, rich or poor all we wanted to know was that he as a neighbor and a man. Was he a good fellow, truthful, honest, and charitable? If he had not those qualties, he did not stay long enough in our midst to become an old settler.

At the risk of wearying you, I will name a few of hose veterans who were the foremost men of the county n 1845, but who have gone to their long homes. Let us peak reverently of them. Their faults were human, but heir good qualities and many virtues will commend them o our consideration.

The early settlers in Richland Township were: The angs, Cowleys, Clays, Calkins, Daileys, DeWitts, Feagers, Greens, Hardys, Moodys, McMillens, Pennells, Rogers, Shulls, Showers, Treeshes and Weiricks.

The men whom I have named, who came here prior to an. 1, 1846, came before the period of railroads, beore canals were dug, and many of them before the roads ere cut and bridges built. Just think of it, that hirty-five years ago the residents of our county had ever seen a railroad car, and we have over a hundred iles of railroad track in the county today, and two undred trains daily trough it. There was not then in he county a steam engine; there was not one cook stove n a dozen families.

I recollect very distinctly the first threshing machine. It indeed was a beauty. It did not even separate the grain from the chaff and straw. It was brought into the county by John Zimmerman, who then resided n the Houk farm, in Jackson township. In fact, it ould now be a novelty, and, as it did the, would now raw crowds when set to work; and, to use a homely expression, it was the "biggest think out." Instead of eing several weeks in flailing, tramping and winnowng out a hundred bushels of wheat, the farmer, with hat threshing machine, could thresh out that quantity n a day, and then take his time to run it through the anning mill. And when he had the wheat ready for market, then he would have to take about three days to



This is a picture of the thrashing rig that belonged to Pete Becher who is standing on the machine. He went to different farms after the wheat had been cut, shocked, and dried, and separated the wheat from the straw. They really made high straw stacks and in some cases, even built pole sheds to put the straw on so that in the winter time, the cattle could have some small measure of comfort and be in out of the weather. Not only that, they were great fun to slide down, if you didn't mind getting yourself covered with straw!

arry a load of twenty-five or thirty bushels to Fort Wayne and sell it for fifty or sixty cents a bushel. Corn had a value then proportioned to wheat, the same as now. Pork then ranged at one dollar and a half to two dollars per hundred pounds.

The first school-house was erected at Green's Corner prior to 1841. In 1849, a frame was put up by Charles Knapp on the old site. A year or two later L. D. Britton was a teacher in this building. In 1842, a log school-house was built a half a mile northeast of Calkin's Corners; Loretta Rawson was teacher and she had fifteen pupils. Harvey Smith was the first Male Teacher. That school would have been situated now on old Road 6, east of 327 at about where Forest Strawser is now living, although Mrs. Earl Farrington told me that Earl had plowed up some bricks at one time in the corner of the field next to Strawsers garage.

The Baptists were the first religious organization, and erected the pioneer log church just across from where the Corunna Cemetery is now located. It was on land owned by the Calkins. Early ministers were Elders Town, Spear, and Blanchard. The first grist-mill was built at Corunna by Obadiah Bear, and the first water saw-mill was on section 16, built by John Weaver. The first steam saw-mill was put up on land belonging to Mr. Green, by Mr. Green and Mr. Burgess.

Out of a book on the history of DeKalb County written in 1885 comes the following: The population of Richland Township is 1,598, or 66 to the square mile. The valuation per capita is $337.96. In 1884 the number of acres of land assessed was $14,787.70; value of same, $383,334; value of improvements, $49,010; value of land and improvements, $432,344; value of lots, $6,999; value of improvements, $16,690; value of lots and improvements, $23,689; value of taxation, $1.56; number of polls 214, poll tax, $1.50.

The following figures of staple crops are for 1881: acres in wheat, 1,834; product of same at 5 bushels per acre, 9,170 bushels; acres in corn, 1,113; product of same at 25 bushels, 27,825 bushels; in oats, 636 acres, product of same at 30 bushels per acre, 1,036 tons of hay; in Irish potatoes, 40 acres, product of same at 15 bushels per acre, 600 bushels.

COMMUNITY LIFE BOOMED IN SEDAN

The following article was written by Earl Husselman in June of 1953. I won't copy all of it as part of it will be a repeat of earlier statements. He does state that the farm that Joseph Miller settled on when he moved into Richland Township from his fathers farm, is now located in section thirty-five and is now a part of Keyser Township and has changed ownership numerous times and is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dilgard who is Mr. Husselman's daughter, Betty.

The next settlers to come into what is now Richland

township was Joshua Feagler and Jacob Wyrick (it was spelled Weirick in other history books), who were brothers-in-law. They came West from Green County, Ohio in the spring of 1836, expecting to enter land in Wabash County. They came down the Wabash and Erie canal to Fort Wayne where they stopped overnight and while there met Wesley Park, and he induced them to come to what later was to become DeKalb County. Here each entered a quarter section of land about three miles north west of Auburn and then returned temporarily to their homes in Ohio. In the following autumn they moved their families here, arriving on the last day of September. Mr. Wyrick built his cabin first and here both families lived the first winter. Upon the arrival of spring Joshua Feagler erected his own cabin about a quarter of a mile west of the Wyrick home. Mr. Feagler spent the rest of his lifetime on the farm and his name is perpetuated in the name Feagler's Corners applied to that road intersection.

Both the Feagler and Wyrick entries are now the property of George Boren and he lives on the latter farm.

The first winter a baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs Wyrick, the first white child born in Richland Township. The Wyricks and Feaglers had plenty of Indians as their neighbors as there was an Indian trail in front of their homes and there was a camp they frequently used just a little west of the Feagler home which later became the David Lawrence farm. One day three Indians stopped at the Wyrick home with some venison and pointing to the outdoor oven made signs that they wanted to trade the venison for bread which Mrs. Wyrick had done on several occassions. This time Mrs. Wyrick invited them in to see the new baby. The Indians were astonished because they had never seen a white baby before and Mrs. Wyrick soon realized her mistake. The Indians were quick to take advantage of good nature and they came in large numbers to see the white baby and the Feaglers were compelled to drive them away for fear that they would attempt to steal the infant. Mrs. Wyrick, however, always remained on friendly terms with the Indians and they in turn kept her well supplied with wild fruits of various kinds during the summer.

Prominent among those who assisted in the development and improvement of Richland Township were Solomon Showers and Lyman Green, brother-in-laws. They came to Indiana in 1837, being natives of New York state and extablished homes in the northeast part of the township. Mr. Green erected a home on the corner south of Sedan now known as the Brumback farm and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Brand. For many years this was known as Greens Corners because of the intersection of roads. Mr. Green wished to establish a town there although we find no record of his platting any lots or laying out any

reets, but he did get a post office established and
t himself appointed postmaster, and the place was
own as IBY. Those days a mail route ran from Auburn
Orland and Iby was on the route. Mail was brought
stage coach when the roads would permit, otherwise
horse back. Mr. Green also established a grocery
d an Ashery in which he made a product called potash
black salts which contained tannic acid and was used
tanners for the tanning of hides. He took this pro-
ct to Fort Wayne and exchanged it for such products
the pioneers used at that time. Mr. Green's customers
re few and far between because in 1840 only sixteen
milies resided in Richland Township and three in Fair-
eld township. Sometime in the 1840's Christian Buss
ilt a saw mill at Iby and it stood where the Brumback
rns stands now. Mr. Buss was a cooper by trade and
manufactured barrels made from oak timbers. The
rst school house in the township was established at
y in 1840 and a church was erected soon after and Iby
gan to take on the appearance of a small town. Mr.
een had fond hopes that in time it would develope in-
a good sized town.

Among some of the early settlers in Richland Town-
ip we will mention: Herman Bangs, James McCrum, Dimick
rding, Peter Treesh, James Blake, Henry Willis,
niel Webber, James McCague who was Mr. Husselman's
andfather.

In about 1850 the news reached DeKalb county that a
rvey was being made west of Toledo for a railroad -
he Air Line was to be established and would run throu-
h DeKalb County. The road was later known as the Lake
hore and Michigan Southern and still later the New
rk Central. Much excitement prevailed. The line
ushed westward slowly and finally reached DeKalb
unty. This project required a lot of manpower, hand
abor with picks, shovels, wheelbarrows, scrapers and
rse carts. When the railroad was finally completed
hrough DeKalb County in 1857, we hear no more about
he little town of Iby and Mr. Green moved his goods a
ile north, along the north side of the railroad and
tarted another store. Mr. H. S. Hine laid out a new
own and called it Lawrence. Mr. Hine erected a steam
aw mill and donated building lots to actual settlers
o whom he supplied lumber for building. Harrison
ones had the honor of building the first house and al-
o kept tavern. The post-office run by Lyman Green at
by was removed to Lawrence and Mr. Green was again
ppointed postmaster. About that time someone discov-
red that there was another town named Lawrence in Mar-
on County, north east of Indianapolis so the postal
uthorities gave the new town and post office the name
f Sedan and the place began to show rapid growth. A
rain elevator was built along the north side of the

railroad on the west side of the main street and was a poplar market for many years.

If you will take time to look at the map of Richland Township on page 11 of this book you will find a small drawing of the town of Sedan. This may help you when you try to visualize where each business was established, and how the town was platted out.

William McIntyre was the popular railway agent from 1862 to 1874 when he was elected county auditor. Every effort was made to make Sedan an important trading post. We will mention a few of the business men between 1860 and 1880. Smith and Hunter built and operated a grist mill. Allman and Jones built and operated a hotel for many years. Haines Brothers had a drygoods store. George Gonsor had a grocery store where Mrs. Palmer now lives and George Parks had a grocery at the north end of town. There were two blacksmith shops, one owned by a Mr. Schontz and the other by Nick McEntyre. A Mr. Stewart operated a jewelry store. Two merchants named Orange and Kineman had a general store and sold shoes, dry goods and groceries. Two wagon shops were run by William Shaffer and Co. made caskets from native walnut timber and William Blutcher had a basket factory. A Mr. Dungan was a cooper and made oak whiskey barrels. Grate Brothers manufactured washing machines. There was also a brewery, a candy factory, a brick yard and a chair factory. Through Stephen Lower, the Harness maker at Stroh we learn that a little candy factory operated by John D. Miller and John Huperty at Flint was moved to the new and enterprising town of Sedan. A few years later the candy company became known as the Hort Miller and Law Candy Company and subsequently moved to Toledo where it operated under that name. This candy company moved again, this time to Fort Wayne and the name changed to the Wayne Candy Company, still operating in that city. In the 1870's, Edward Wright moved from Fairfield Center and brought his tannery, soap and mitten factory to Sedan where he made his products of dog hides. The medical profession was represented by the following: Doctors Farrington, Little, Mason, and Sebring; and a little later or Dr. A. B. Matthews came and operated a drug store in addition to the practice of medicine.

In 1860, the Lutherans built a new church with twenty charter members. John and Ruben Dilgard doing the catpenter work. This church burned down about twenty-five years ago and was not rebuilt. In 1857, a frame school house was erected and stood a little to the east of where Mrs. Palmer now lives. It is said that for several years there were nearly ninety pupils in this school. The boys sat on one side of the room and the girls on the other. Me might mention that the Hoosier Schoolmaster of that day did not have a lucrative job

ompared to present day standards. They usually recei-
ed from $3.50 to $5.00 per week and boarded around
ith the patrons. Some of the early teachers who taught
t the Sedan school were: Nick Adkley, Joe Shull, Orin
air, Libby Rice, Will Urey, Jonas Dilgard, Martha Mc-
ague and a Mr. Crum. A little later or Arthie McEn-
yre, Nelson Shook and Brooks Hine were teachers.

Among some of the prominent citizens of Sedan was
rs. Jane L. Hine, the Bird Woman, who was known per-
onally to many ornithologists over the United States.
he was in great demand as a writer and lecturer. She
rote many articles for farm magazines and spoke before
arm institutes and other organizations. Early in the
dminstration of President Woodrow Wilson, she was in-
ited by Mrs. Wilson to attend a costumed bird party at
he summer home of the Wilsons at Cornish, New Hamp-
hire but because of her advanced age and poor health
he was not able to attend. Mrs. Hine was a most re-
arkable woman whose life was one of great purpose and
n many ways was directly associated with the progress
nd upbuilding of the Sedan community. Mrs. Hine pass-
d away in 1915 but is still spoken of in words of kind-
ness and honor.

Another of the enterprising and public spirited cit-
zens of the Sedan community was the late William H.
rane. Mr. Crane operated a grocery store at Sedan for
ore than a half century. He was appointed postmaster
hen a young man and held the appointment until 1907
hen the post office went out of existance and Sedan
as put on a rural route. Mr. Crane put his grocery on
heels and ran his huckster wagon five days a week dur-
ng the summer months for many years, while Mrs. Crane
perated the store. The Cranes were known far and wide
nd were popular with the farmers of that community.
ew people have had the good fortune to win such high
egard and confidence that the Cranes gained among the
eople for miles around surrounding the Sedan Community.
leasing address, genial manners and good habits won a
lace in the best society in DeKalb County.

At one time it seemed that Sedan was destined to be-
ome a place of considerable importance. In 1870, it
ad a population of 240. In 1880, the census bureau
ave it a population of 176. The town passed through
he usual experiences of sickness, deaths, hard times
nd several fires, losing by the latter, the grain ele-
ator, the grist mill, some stores and factories after
hich business life began to decline and because of this
business men began to cast their lots and fortunes in
ther localities. Not-withstanding the fact that the
own had a good start, it was compelled to yield to
ther neighboring towns. Where once was a thriving
little village, filled with happy and industrious peo-
le, it lives only in memory.

INFORMATION GIVEN BY VARIOUS RICHLAND FAMILIES

Most of the following information was given me by different people living in Richland Township and most of it centers around people living in Section 16, 17, and 18. The information had been passed down to them by their grandparents and parents who had moved here, some of them in the 1860's. The parties I talked to were Ora Norris, Willard Nessel, and John Friend. Ada Farrington also gave me some information as her parents were settlers in my territory. Talking about my territory, I might just as well start off with my husbands family, as I'm a foreigner, as you might say having came from Keyser Township.

In the picture below, is Ezra and Lillie (Waugh) Sliger who moved to Richland Township in 1927 from Whitley County, Indiana. This was taken by a daughter of theirs Velma Ferguson as they celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. The boy in the picture is a grand son, Harry Penland, son of Margaret (Sliger) and Jay Penland, who live just over the border in Noble Co. .



The picture on the next page is that of Ezra and Lillie Sligers oldest living son, Karl and his family. From the left is Clara (Miller)Sliger, Karl B., Ken, Karl W. and Robert Sliger. Karl W. Sliger purchased 2 acres of land across the road from where his parents homesteaded in 1931 and moved his family from Garrett to their home there. The home is located just across from the West Richland School house, where Clara lives today, Karl having died in 1966. Just down the road east of the school house on the south side of the road is the old home where Ezra lived with his family. Today that is where Karl's oldest son Robert lives with his family. He married Jean Mavis and they had three children, Robert, Cindy, and Keith. Cindy is married to Edward Prater and they have one daughter, Dawn Elizabeth Prater. (A proud grandmother always has to mention their first granchild! One of the privilages of writing this book.) Karl B. Sliger married Ilene Balliet and they live in Auburn. Ken lives on the old

THE KARL W. SLIGER FAMILY



McClellan farm just a half mile down the road from us with his wife Reba (Knapp) and their four boys, Kerry, Randy, Ryan, and Kris. Now that I've got my family taken care of I'll start out on some of the other old timers, as Mr. Norris calls himself!



Mr. Winferd Nessle gave me lots of information of the surrounding territory, but he didn't give me this picture of him and his sister Cadella. That credit goes to John Friend. Mr. Nessle is in the process of building a new house on 327 just south of Co. road 32. He married Mrs. Ruth Smith and they have three children, Marilyn, Steve and Robin.

Cadella Nestle married Harry Giradot and live on 327 just south of the junction of Co. Road 28 the first farm on the west side of the road. They had three children Mrs. Dorsey (Emmajeane) Roop, Vincent in Bryan, Ohio, and Mrs. James (Marcella) Pepple, deceased. They were the children of William and Elizabeth Mangold Nessel.

Most of the following information was given to me by Mr. Ora Norris and Mr. Nessle.

Ora's grandmother and grandfather came to Richland township in 1860 and settled on land that they purchased Ora's present home from a Mr. Hostler. Ora's home is the second house on Co. Road 34 just off 327. The first water saw-mill was built by John Weaver on the Norris farm. Ora said that the stream has changed location several times but that you could still see the mound of dirt that the dam was located at. He also told me that about 30 years ago, when they first dredged the creek, he told me they ran across a "Corduroy Road" built of logs and that it came out on Co. Road 7 at the top of the hill and his dad always figured that this was how they got back to the saw-mill.

Ora also said that his grandparents, who were Thomas and Susan Kenstrick Norris, told his father that when they arrived the school house at that time was located where the cemetary is at the 16 Church on 327. The Zion Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. William Waltman in 1855. The pastor lived in Spencerville. The present building was erected in 1869 from local timbers that came off of the Adam Leins farm on County Road 32. About 1860 Rev. Waltman organized the Sedan Church and also had several other parishes. Sedan, Zion, Fairfield Center, Spencerville, St. Johns and Salem.

Following north on 327, where Dorsey Roop lives now, was a blacksmith shop owned by George Treesh who did the blacksmith and welding jobs for many of the local farmers in this territory.

Just to the north of his house and before you came to Co. Road 34, was a school that was built sometime after the school at the cemetary closed. Ora said they were both called the 16 school. The gravel for the school was taken from the back of Ora's farm and it was built of brick. When this school was thought to be obsolete they built the West and East Richland Schools. The West Richland School was built about 1913 or 1914. The architectes at that time were Ellwood and Ellwood, and the Trustee was George Shaffer. The Advisory Board was composed of A. E. Slater, A. Hewitt and W. C. Nessel. The contractor was M. Brandon. My son Keith went over and looked this up on the cornerstone, but could not find the date it was built.

While I'm on the subject, on west on Co. road 34 was another school which was called the old Northwest District No. 9 until later years when the younger generation called it the Hovarter School. It was located about a mile east of the Noble County line and the picture on the next page was of the students and their teacher who at that time was John Oster. I have no idea who the students were at that time, but they were children prior to when the West Richland School was

built in the teens. Look close and you might be able to pick out your parents or grandparents.

While I'm on the subject of schools, I did have some pictures of a few other schools in Richland Township so I might just as well put them on this page as the pictures of the schools took up a full page.

On page 27, is a picture taken on April 9, 1937 of the top four grades at the West Richland School. We have tried to identify all those that we could. First row: Harold Fike, Bob Swanders, Stanley Friend, John Sliger, deceased, Calvin Rynearson, Richard Friend, & Joe Sliger. Second Row: Charles Boggs, Junior Carol, Jim Fike, Kenny Boggs, Art Fike, Jr., Earl Keller, & (Stub) Merritt Tuttle. Third Row: Estel Shippy, Teacher, Maxine(Leiter)Harvey, Gertrude (Rynearson) Burgi, Pearl(Eldridge) Ebhit, Barbara Joan(Farrington) Beadell, deceased, Marvel(Tuttle)Ehrsman, Lois (Farrington) Albright, Donna (Shippy) Hartman, Emmajean (Giradot) Roop, and Phyllis (Fluke) Kubinisiki.

This picture was taken in 1929 when Rosa Poer was the teacher at the East Richland School. The only one that Mrs. Ada Farrington could identify, was her son Charles who was in the middle of the first row. This is the picture on page 28. I'll leave some room here so if any of you can identify any of the kids, you can list them in your own book. Between Dorsey Roop's and Charles Farrington's, we've come up with the following: First Ros: Francis Thomas, John Thompson, Bob Hartman, Charles Farrington, Frank Eldridge, Wayne Farrington, deceased, and Joe Roop. Second Row: Dorothy Karns, Keturah (Delong) Chambers, Reah (Reader) Stebing, Melva (Miser) Myers, Donas (Gafken) Seifert, Lucille Eldridge, Roeine (Garman) Miller, Mable (Reader) Bry. Third Row: _____, Austin Roop, Bob Myers, Charles Reader, Dale Grogg, _____, Evelyn Heine, and Mary Jane(Boyer) Gadrosky.

The picture on page 29, is a picture of the school house that is located 2 miles north and ½ mile east of Garrett which is called Putt's Corner. Today we would identify it as saying that it would be on Co. road 40 east of 327 on the property owned by Gerald Nichols. The school still stands and I was by it the other day and it still looks pretty good. Nathian Hathaway was the teacher there and then Nell Grogg, Mary Krider and Sis Mathews were other later teachers.

In light gingham dresses were Josie and Alula Mason and between them was their neighbor girl Vesta Texter. Josie Mason is Orris Wise's mother. Josie's mother was a Hathaway whose parents came in the 1840's to settle here.



EAST RICHLAND SCHOOL IN 1929

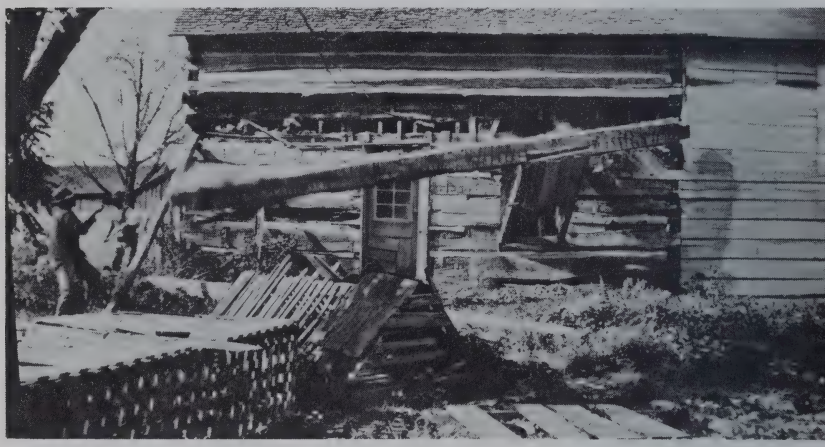


Now back we go to Ora's house! Just west of Ora's house, or as he saids just under the big maple tree, there was a brewery! They had a well and the depresion of the well was still there. Ora said that this was before his time and not to sure about just when it was in existance.

On up the road about a mile further on down the road Mrs. Ada Farrington said that there used to be a little trading post where the West Richland School house was located but according to John Friend, he thinks the trading post was located just to the west of the school house on the rise of a ridge. It would be about right across from where George Clark lives now. There is a grape arbor that stands there that could very easily have been an old hitching post in front of a store. John said that he has plowed bricks and poles up from that area for several years past.

Mrs. Farrington said that she and her sisters have made many trips to the store when they were youngsters, and that is was run by Quincen Farrington who was a son of Efram Farrington who owned 80 acres of land where the present West Richland School house stands.

We're now at the junction of Co. road 34 and 32 just directly across from the School house. If you go north on that road to the curve in the road, you will come to the farm of John Brandon. But in the picture below, you'll see that it didn't look quite the same as it does today.



This is the picture of the old log cabin that John Friends Grandfather Norris Friend had homesteaded in. They were in the process of tearing it down as they were building the house that the Brandons are living in today.

The picture on the next page shows a three generation picture of Norris Friend who lived in the above cabin. Norris is sitting down and holding his grand-



son, Wilmer Schurr on his lap. Hid daughter, Alda Friend, who married Mr. George Schurr is standing behind him.

Wilmer Schurr was electrocuted while at work at Warner Gear several years ago. This picture was donated by John Friend a son of John Friend Sr. and a grandson of Norris Friend.

Mr. Norris and his wife Suzanna Friend had 6 children. Mrs. William (Mandy) Nichols, Milo, John, Emery, Mrs. George (Alda) Schurr, and Pearl who died while he was quite young. Of the above children, all of them but John Friend, Sr. are deceased. John is 92 years of age but is living in the home of his daughter Mrs. Myrtle Chrisleb at R. # 1, Auburn. Myrtle is deceased so John stays here by himself.



This is a homestead picture of Adam Leins and his family. In the picture are Adam, Myrtle, Audry and Ralph Leins. Adam and his wife Myrtle Rohm, had two other children Roy and Geraldine. Audrey is married to Eden Halferty of Auburn and Geraldine is married to

Clifton Ernest of Kendallville. Ralph and Roy are both deceased but Roys widow the former Marie Biddle is living there with her daughter Mrs. Sy (Linda) Stahl and family and her youngest son Steve. Roy and Marie's oldest son Tom and his wife Julie (Campbell) live with their children on Co. Road 28. Their youngest daughter Mrs. Artie (Lois) Collins lives in Kentucky.

In the picture below, is the barn that was built on the Adam Leins farm in 1909. As you can tell the barn was just freshley painted. The wood for the barn was taken from the woods at the back of the farm, but the barn was struck by lightening and burned down in 1910, and when they replaced it with a new barn, they would not paint it for fear that it would burn down also. How's that for old fashioned superstition! In the picture are Ralph and Adam Leins holding a team of snow white horses.



This picture was donated by John Friend. It was taken of a Sunday School Class from the 16 Church taken at the old Henry Leins farm. It was taken in 1920 and we weren't able to identify all the kids. The first girl they don't know, then was Joyce Harding, Lawrence Votrie, John Friend, Harry Hovarter and from there on we're lost.



Harry was telling me that John, Lawrence and him, decided to walk home and went through Eldridge's woods. He said they were scared to death because it was so dark in the woods!!



John Friend donated this picture, and for a while, we thought that they were Wiehmuller sisters, but Ada Farrington did straighten me out on that point.

The one on the right was Pauline Wiehmuller who later married Perry Eldridge.

The Wiehmuller family lived on Co. R. 32, and their were eight sisters in the family, but Ada said that they weren't and of her sisters. She did say that Pauline moved out to Oregon for a while and this might have been a picture of one of her friends from out there.

Ada was a Wiehmuller until she married Earl arrington. Ada is in her eighties now, and really is livewire in our community. She belongs to the DeKalb ounty Chorous, plus the Home Demonstration Club and is ery active in the Republican Party.



This was a picture of Andrew and Rosie Schurr, who were the parents of several children. William, George, Herman, Emery, Solomon, and Clara Schurr. They were farmers and lived just west of the creek on the south side of the road. Most of the children stayed in this territory.

Now we're back up to State Road 327, where I want to do a little back-tracking. Most of the following information came from Wilferd Nessel and Ora Norris.

At the turn of the century in Richland Township, the roads were all dirt roads, some of them were graded and the other were just plain ole wagon trails - us yet ungraveled.

At that time, all males between the ages of 21 and 50, were charged a poll tax which was usually around a dollar and a half. This poll tax was normally used to repair the roads, so if the men wanted to they could work out there tax. Since there was a shortage of money around, this is normally what they did. William C. Nessel had a team and wagon and was allowed 75¢ a day to apply toward his tax. If you weren't lucky enough to have a team, you usually worked with a pick or a shovel! Both men said that you usually had to watch pretty carefully because the gravel would cave in from the top and if you weren't careful you could get buried by the gravel. Ora said he can remember seeing that happen many times, and can remember when they were at what was called Wilson's Pit, which was north of Pepples almost to the railroad and a little to the east, where there were two gravel pits that they got gravel from, that the gravel caved in and one man got his feet between the wagon-spokes in his hurry to get away, and had to be dug out. Another time, he said that there was a big bunch of gravel that came off the top and completely burried the back-end of a wagon, and that it took two big teams of horses to haul them out.

It was not until 1918 or 1920 that roads became graveled and not until the latter part of the 20's, that there were all weather roads throughout the township.

The Corunna-Garrett road - now State road 327, was impassable much of the year because it went through several swamps. One swampy place which was frequently impassable was in the depression just ½ mile north of Co. Road 32. Many travelers had to turn to the west and go to the first road which was the old Armstrong by pass to use the high ground to get into Corunna. The road is a private drive now and no longer goes through to any highway.

Coming from Garrett to Corunna, just before you came to the curves on 327, the first house south was owned by Emery Treesh. He had a cider press and also a cane mill and made some of the first sugar that was made in this territory. The old concrete block still stands where the mill once stood.

Following on down to the curve, is now Frank Pickards garage. Frank's a youngster according to Ora, but he's had his garage there for quite a few years now.

Just east of Franks and past Carey Rufners place in the hollow south of Lintz Lake, there was a trapper and his wife, Jacob and Abergale Palmer lived. Mr. Palmer

as known for miles around as a genius with guns and eople would come from all over the county to get their ns repaired.

While I'm started down that road, it ends now at Co. ad # 15, it used to angle cross country and came out er there at Feagler's Corner and instead of the 4 sec- ions that meet there now, back then there were five ads that met at the corner.

Back to 327 - on around the first bend in the road here the 16 Lutheran Church still stands, just to the st of it, stood a small building that the old Glean- s used for a meeting place. Many of the local Home emonstration clubs that began in the 20's had their etings there also.

On the next corner or curve, stood George Treesh's lacksmith and Wheelright shop. Nearly every farmer ound here went to George to have there implements and quipment repaired. Money was used sparringly and far- ers paid when they could. I doubt (Mr. Nessel talking) if George ever kept books on who owed who, but an ob- igation was an obligation and no one forgot to pay hen they could either in money or in kind. I'll have o tell Mr. Nessel that George did keep a set of books hat John Friend gave me to look at and thought you ight be interested in seeing some of the charges he ade for people around this territory. In April 1910, e worked on a buggy for Homer Boren and charged him 5.50., In Oct. 17, 1911, he made four horse shoes for oel Treesh for $1.20; in June 1910 in working on a agon for John Brechbill he charged him $4.00; He got 2.00 for a set of Wagon Tires in 1910 from John Fri- nd. His charges weren't even to bad even in 1941, he harged Perry Eldridge 50¢ for grinding 3 axes for him. will say this, that in almost every case, all of his ills at the bottom of the page were marked paid in ull and crossed off the ledger. Quite interesting eading but too much to list here.

The next place down the road from George's on the ast side of the road, in the 20's, lived Norris Fri- nd. Mr. Nessel said that he used to keep water tanks ight along the side of the road filled with water so hat the thirsty travelers could stop and water their orses and get a drink of water for themselves as they assed by.

About the time that the roads became passable, the ountryside was visited by Huckster, Drovers, Horse- raders, and Handymen.

The Huckster wagons are a part of our heritage. The ervice to the community can't be measured. What they ere, was really a small variety store on wheels, carry- ng to the community almost everything you would need ut couldn't go to town to buy. The housewife could et sewing notions, cleaning needs such as brooms, mops

or pails, Food staples were available as was clothing.

The wagon had a top with side curtains to protect its contents. A seat up front for the driver and peddler. The gentle horse almost knew the route and when to stop. How the children loved to see it come down the road as there was always something in store for them. Probably the most remembered peddler in DeKalb County was Bill Crane of Sedan.

Drovers were men who would go through the countryside buying cattle, sheep and other livestock they they could purchase from the farmers and usually it was the kind of animals that would herd easily and drive them down the road to market or sold them to other farmers along the way.

Itinerant Horsetraders of course, made their living by swaping horses. But they had rather an unsavory reputation. When ever my father (William Nessel) heard that the horsetraders were in the neighborhood, he always locked up our horses in the barn overnight - just as a precaution against theft.

Once or twice a year, we were always visited by, whom we called, the soldering man. Pushing a two-wheel cart filled with soldering tools and his gear ahead of him, he would stop at farms and offer to solder and fix old pots and pans. My mother would always save up her holey-pots and pans for the soldering man. We never knew his name, but he usually timed his visits, so that he could stay overnight at our house.

I remember one time, as a mere boy,perhaps 5 or 6 years old, around 1916, I (Wilferd Nessel) helped my father drive some of his hogs to the market at Corunna. We drove them down the roads, such as they were to what was Finches Stock Yards, where they were shipped to the market at Buffalo, New York. That was our main market at that time. Later on when the roads had been improved, we hauled them to Finches Stock yards in a wagon. Finches stockyards were located along the railroad where the coal yard is now or was when we had a coal-yards in Corunna.

Several times a year Wilferd's mother would compile a list of staples that she needed and send to Montgomery Ward and Co., in Chicago for them. She would usually order a six months supply of Sugar, Salt, a few items of canned goods, which usually arrived through the mails. Sometimes the order was too big to be mailed and had to be picked up at the Corunna Depot.

During the Fall or Harvest season was the time to lay in all the food stuff you could round up. The housewives in the neighborhood would get together to gather apples and prepare them to make apple-butter in the big copper kettles outdoors. Canning apples, peaches, pears and other fruits was a job that was always done in the harvest season. Most every family had a

garden and canned or dried all the vegetables and its they could raise for the winter months. Butchering time also was held usually in the winter ths, when the neighbors all helped each other to lay the years supply of meats. They Salted down meats, ar-cured the hams and pork, and canned the rest of meat that they didn't do that too, as the only means keeping the meat fresh, would be the cold weather. About the only other thing that Mr. Nessel gave me, t I should have put in with the schools, but didn't, that with the consolidations the East and West hland Schools, in 1913, most of the students were led in school hacks as they were then called. The ool-hack was pulled by a team of horses and each te was about 8 or 10 miles long. It usually con- ted of a 4 hour trip twice a day in the dead of win- for some of us as my father and Sam McClellan were drivers of these school-hacks.

When we finally converged to school buses, Jay De- it was the first bus driver. He put a school-hack dy on his 1½ ton truck to drive the kids to school. d we complain about at hour on the bus now!

On down the road from Mr. Nessel, on the corner of Road 32, where Art Fike (now deceased) lived, is a pression which used to be a clay pit. The clay from at depression was made into tile and most of the field le in this area came from that hole.

The next house down the road was were Susan Rob, who s born a Grunkhert, lived. The Grunkherts were one the original settlers of Richland Township. They ilt a house on the hill overlooking the swamp, just rth of County Road 32. The barn still stands but e house was destroyed by fire just a few years ago.

Nest in line toward Corunna, was probably the first urch built in DeKalb County. It was "Cedar Creek urch" and was Baptist. Near the Church site is the esent Corunna Cemetery - the older portion, known in rly times as Cedar Creek Cemetery. An addition to e north was bought from Thomas Daily whose farm ad- ined. Mr. Daily is buried in this Cemetery as is Mr. lkins who were first members of the "Cedar Creek urch." The original church building was of logs but s long ago been gone. (Written by Mrs. Orris Wise.)

Next in line was Calkins Tile Mill. Mr. Paulus Cal- ns was engaged in the manufacture of tiling and in e operation of a saw mill. The tile mill was almost tuated right across from Harry Giradots farm now, or st about a quarter of a mile south of Co. Road 28 on e east side of the road. Several different people ve told me that the clay to run the Tile Kiln was ken from various places but the concensus is that e biggest share of the clay was taken from a mile ction that ran from Co. Road 28 to Co. road 32. Mrs. radot also told me that there was clay taken from

behind their barn in two different depressions, which you can see when you pass their place. Someone also said that after they were finished making bricks there that they started to make cement blocks. It was quite a big operation and Mr. Calkins was actively engaged in both operations until his death.

On the junction of Co. Road 28 lived a family known as the Finches. They were not only quite well known in our territory but Frank Finch became a famous cartoonist and you will see just a few of his pictures scattered here and there among the pages of this book.

In a newspaper clipping from the Fort Wayne News Sentinel dated Aug. 28, 1931 and loaned to The Evening Star by Forrest Harding, R. # 1, Corunna, is an article written by the "native son who made good," "Doc Bird" Finch describes his home town.

"The old home, proper, is an old farmhouse one mile from a little tank town (but don't you call it a HICK TOWN even if it has only a population of 300) as it's home, sweet home to me."

Corunna, Indiana, is right on the New York Central Railroad and the Chicago-New York pike."

"The New York central Railroad has my town on its map, even if it does catch the mail and water on the fly."

Finch goes on to mention the "famous" baseball team, the Corunna Band that trimmed all the bands in the state in a contest and one band member, Charley Calkins, who later played in the orchestra at the Chicago Opera House. Also mentioned in the article were Corunna notables such as Roy and Bob Johnson, "Fat" Hewitt, "Nig" Manroe, The Dawson "boys," Ed Miles, Ed Gushwa, Charley Borst, Red Miller, and other members of "the chicken-thieving, watermelon-stealing, freight-hoppin" gang from Corunna.

At the time Finch published this article, he was a cartoonist for the Denver Colorado Post. Franks picture is on the next page and a little history about his life. This next is just a space filler!

Taken from the Corunna News on Nov. 4, 1915

A halloween party was given by the young people in and around Corunna at the Zonker hall, Saturday Eve. Nearly all that were present were masked in beautiful costumes and all enjoyed the many games of pleasure of the school type. After the greater party of the evening was spent the masks were removed and many were surprised as to the party. At a late hour a lap supper was served at the boy's expense, the price of the supper was based on the size of their partner and the length of the boys arm which cost at the rate of one cent an inch. It was reported that several of the young girls left the hall before the supper was served, because they did not want a boy to put his arm around her.



This is a portrait picture taken of Frank Finch, who was born in March of 1879 and died in 1950 from cancer. He was married to Laura Keen from Elkhart and they had one son, Joseph Edward Finch who is living in Denver, Colorado. He is retired now but worked for one of the radio stations for most of his life. He first started working for the paper in Dayton, Ohio, as a cartoonist and from there he went to St. Joseph Missouri and from their to the Denver Post until the 1940 when he returned to Elkhart. Frank evidently did quite a few chalk-talks and would draw pictures of people in the audience. Several of his cartoons are scattered throughout this book!



The note on the back of this picture which was written to his mom, Mrs. James Finch, "This is not Jesse James, it's your son, Frank."

I have a copy of an article written about him in a newspaper that goes like this:"Frank Finch gave a chalk talk at the opera house Tuesday night. Finch is a past master in two great arts - the art of drawing and the are of advertising. We are informed that his first human act was to draw a long breath, and his second was to advertise his arrival on earth so loudly that the stork flew away and could not be induced to return to his native town for more than a year."


DAD TIME
Don't let him get you down!
A Happy Birthday

On the preceeding page you will see the homestead picture of Simon and Lydia Rohm. They were supposed to have built this place on Co. Road 17 off U.S. 6 just south of the railroad underpass. Mr. Rohm died in 1907. They were the parents of three children. MRs. Adam (Myrtle) Leins, Wilson and Michael Rohm. Michael Rohm died when he was just a young man.



The picture on the right, is of Sylvia, Lydia, and Howard Rohm. Sylvia Bundy, was the wife of Wilson Rohm. They were the parents of Howard Rohm. Mr. Howard Rohm started in the car business back in 1934 when he started in Auto Sales as a Chevrolet dealer and was active in it until ill health forced him to retire and his son Norman now manages the business.



This is a picture that was donated by Mrs. Calvin Holman. It was taken of the whole family at a reunion held at the Carlvin Holman farm on Co. Road 28.

On the top of the next page, is a picture of a whole herd of kids on top of a horse that was owned by Fred Knott. As you can see, it was a fairly good size horse and Mr. Knott would take six kids for a ride on the horse at one time.

Mr. Knott would go round and round the farm and the kids were standing 'nine feet deep' waiting for their turn and as soon as they were off, they were back in line for the next trip around the house. This picture was donated by Mrs. Calvin Holman also.



This was the horse owned by Mr. Fred Knott.

CLUBS OF THE RICHLAND TOWNSHIP HOME DEMONSTRATION

In the early years of 1922, the women in Richland wnship saw what the women's organizations were doing other townships in DeKalb County. They were organe clubs that had interesting programs and creative ssons, which were practical for home use.

Mrs. Stella Goldsmith was the first County President d served in the capacity from 1922 to 1930. She was ry capable in presenting different projects for the men.

The Richland Township Home Demonstration club was rmed in 1925, when several neighbor women met to diss forming a club. They were Emma Hovarter, Edith lman, Blanche Votrie, and Iva Treesh. Plans were de and other neighbors notified of the plans. They me to the meeting wearing house dresses, with an apn, an every day style of a true home-maker. Maud abe always led the theme song "The more we get togetr, the happier we will be."

From those early days Richland Township Club has own each year into a very active organization, which s served many in our community, our homes, families, d helped in what ever capacity a need was needed.

We have an enrollment in our club of over 30 women o are active in every phace of family and community ife. We have had two members of our clubs who over e years have served as County President. They were s. Ada Farrington in 1954-1955, and Mrs. Angella Man in 1966-1967.

CORUNNA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

The Corunna Extension Homemakers Club was organized irty years ago. Mrs. Chester (Rachel) Bard was Hos-

tess to eight charter members on Sept. 25, 1945.

At the first meeting the club members elected Mrs. Willis (Doris) Matson, president to guide the club through their first year. Other officers elected included Mrs. Clark, (Beatrice) Farrington, vice president; Miss Thelma Manroe, Secretary-treasurer and chorister; Mrs. Rachel Bard, reporter, and Mrs. Howard (Wilma) Bard was the pianist.

Mary Lenore Moore, Extension Homemaker Agent, installed the new officers and told of the goals and educational features of Home Demonstration Clubs.

Other charter members were Mrs. John (Helen) Bower; Mrs. Sam (Ethel) Drerup; and Mrs. Itha (Bonnie) Stonebraker. Two members were added to the membership at the club's second meeting. They were Mrs. Harold, Margaret) Werkheiser, and Mrs. Willard,(Gladys) Stonebraker.

The Corunna Extension Homemakers club has been active in many community projects for 30 years, including supporting the township 4-h clubs, DeKalb Memorial Hospital Curiosity Shop and a number of projects to help the residents of DeKalb County Home.

MODEL HOME EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

Mrs. Ada Farrington invited seven young homemakers into her home in August, 1951, to explain the educational and social advantages of the Co. Extension Homemakers Department. They were told of the lessons brought from Purdue to help in homemaking, including lessons of proper nutrition, lessons on sewing, laundry, crafts, child raising, and many others.

From this session the Model Home Club was organized. Officers elected at the first meeting in September were; Mrs. Reginald (Helen) Cook, President; Mrs. Jack (Lois) Albright, vice president; Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Farrington Secretary; Mrs. Joe (June) Mason, Treasurer; Mrs. Franklin (Joh) Brechbill, reporter. Other members present were Mrs. Hubert (Virginia) Reinoelh; Mrs. Lloyd (Eloise) Collins. By the end of 1951 the club membership had grown to 20.

Of the many community projects this club has been active in and helped, the most energetic was the community kindergarten they sponsored for eight years.

In 1954 the school system did not offer Kindergarten for the pre-schoolers of the community and since the club membership was made up of mothers of young children it was felt that a kindergarten was felt to be a must.

A committee consisting of Lois Albright, Ruth Farrington June Mason and Helen Cook was appointed to get things started.

The classes were held in the Corunna Christian Church basement for fourteen weeks from September 13 through December 17 and was attended by 12 pupils the first year.

The first class was taught by Mrs. William (Pearl) Smith, and consisted of the following children; Gary Lee Steffe, Francis Crossley, Timmie Cook, Louise Farrington, Jo Ellen Mason, Jack Stonebraker, Jill Stonebraker, Richard Leins, Susan Ellert, Anita Haynes, Linda McBride and Jimmy Friend. At that time the registration fee was 50¢ and each parent paid $1.25 per week. The amount paid to the teacher was $15.00 per week. There was only one semester and ended at Christmas. Mrs. Richard (Jean) Brechbill taught through 1955-60.

By 1961 the class had jumped to 30 pupils and was again taught by Pearl Smith, assisted by Donna Hartman. This was the last year that kindergarten was held in the church, and sponsored by the club.

The Model Home Club held bake sales, auctions, in club bake sales, and many other money making projects to finance the Kindergarten. They were helped on this project by Richland and Corunna Extension Clubs, local businessmen and interested groups and individuals.

The kindergarten project lasted eight years and at that time was included in the school system.

Through the years Model Home extension club has helped in many community projects. The 4-H clubs have been helped both monetarily and with personnel, money and equipment have been donated to Wee Haven School, and where ever a need arises in the community the club membership is ready to help.

HOME ECONOMICS CREED

We believe in the present and its opportunities, in the future and its promises, in everything that makes life large and lovely, in the divine joy of living and helping others; and so we endeavor to pass on to others that which has benefited us, striving to go onward and upward, reaching the pinnacle of economic perfection, in improving, enlargin, and endearing the greatest institution in the world, the HOME.

****

Any young women (that means the ones that are 90 also) that would be interested in joining any of the three clubs that we have in our township, need contact any of the above mentioned members and they would be given information on meeting nights and in most cases would be welcome to join. In some of the clubs they do have a restricted number of members as they meet in homes and can only handle so many members.

In any case, any of you women that can sing, I will personally invite you to become a member of the DeKalb Choral Club which is made up of women in the county most of whom belong to another HomeDemonstration, although that is not compulsory. Love to have you!!

GROWTH OF THE RAILROADS IN DEKALB CO.

The first railroad survey made in DeKalb Co., went right across the Richland Township from east to west. This was the LAKE SHORE AND MICHIGAN SOUTHERN RAILROAD, who started surveying in 1852 and 1853. Along its proposed routes the villages of Corunna and Lawrence, and the towns of Waterloo and Butler sprang into life in 1855. On May 27, 1856, the inhabitants of Butler, forty-one in number, heard with pleasure the whistle of the locomotive proclaiming the completion of the road to that point, and by 1858 the final work was completed in this county.

The work of construction went on for two years longer, the grading being done with picks, shovels, handbarrows and horsecarts, the steam shovel being as yet unknown. On the north side of Cedar Creek, about six miles northeast of Auburn, there was in early days an Indian trading post, which for some time went by the name of Cedarville, but was later known as Uniontown, on account of being then included in Union Township. The railroad was constructed on the south side of the creek, its nearest point being about half a mile from the village. There a station was established and named Waterloo, around which the present flourishing town of that name has grown up.

Four miles west of Waterloo another station was located, which was first named Lawrence and then Sedan, the postoffice, however, being named Iba. Great efforts were made to build up a town there, land owners donating lots to anyone who would erect houses on them. Rather than repeat myself on Sedan, I've printed as much information as I had on them on page 17 and on.

But from that point on, Instead of becoming easier, theroad took a turn for the worst!

At County Road 23, or the Richland-Grand Township line, on the west side of the road, the Railroad Crew began having trouble! They ran into what is commonly called a sink-hole. Mrs. Orris Wise, has in her possession a copy of a letter written by Mrs. Jane L. Hine, whose husband H. S. Hine owned quite a lot of land in and around Sedan. This is the letter she wrote that Mrs. Wise copied for this book.

"About the first place my husband took me to visit on our new farm was "The Sink-Hole." One of our ugly "cat-holes" had lain in the track of the railroad. When the bed was completed and they were laying the ties, the swamp gave way one night and down went the grade into a subterranean lake. The next day, and many days after, people came flocking from near and far to see the wonder. There lay a small lake a third of a mile long, instead of the sunken grade!

The low land at one side of the pond was undisturbed. A broad belt on the other side was terribly upheaved

d stirred. Soon the upheaved land lay drained and dry
ve the water it rested on. It was seamed with long
acks. Some of the fissures were a yard wide. Whether
de or narrow, people knew they would be ugly things
get into, for their sides were as unstable as meal
d the water they were floored with, appeared to be
ttomless.

Men expert in such things were brought to find a
ttom to the pond but pribe and sound as they might,
thing more solid than mire could be reached.

For ten years, "The Sink Hole" baffled the great
ke Shore Railroad Company and obliged it to have an
ly curve in its Air-Line Divison.

At first the Sink Hole was an unsightly place but
seemed only a little while until the upheaved land
s a field of red raspberry bushes, and the pond neat-
bordered with water vegetation."

Note from Mrs. Wise, "In 1865, the Railroad Company
cided to place old railroad ties and long timbers at
ght angles and knit together to form a continous
idge. In a few months a track was laid across the
d break and the curve removed."

Can't remember who told me, but someone said that
the time that they were working on the sink=hole,
ey estimated that it was at least 40 and maybe 60 ft.
ep and they would hate to say how many tons of tim-
rs were buried at that crossing.

Jane (Brooks) Hine came to DeKalb Co., in its earli-
t years as wife of Mr. Hine of Sedan. Howard Hine of
is area is a decendent.

A curve was made in the railroad to by-pass the sink-
le and the road was continued on to Corunna and then
to Noble County in Kendallville. On one of my tapes
made while talking to people, someone said that the
rst train came through Corunna sometime around the
urth of July in 1858. I can't say that is true, tho-
h, although the first train did come through sometime
1858.

This is a letter that was printed in August 1866, in
e DeKalb Democrat Newspaper.

"Mr. Editor - While for the last four years Auburn
s improved, as well as other towns of our county, pro-
nent among these is the pleasant little village of
runna, which eight years ago was a cultivated field.
has three first class Dry Good Stores, two Hardwares,
e drug Store, three Groceries, one Hotel, a Milliner
ore, a Cabinetmaker, Tailor, Blacksmith, Butchers,
gonmaker, Shoeshop, Post Office, Physicians, Livery
able, Saw Mill, a first class Flour Mill, besides the
tizens have shown a determination that their town
all prosper by promptly raising the sum of $1100 to
d us in the erection of a fine passenger and freight
use. The freight house capable of storing 6500 bus-
ls of wheat. The two buildings will be finished by

the middle of October.

More wheat is shipped at Corunna than any other station of its demensions on the M.S. & N.I.R.R. The town is situated in one of the most fertile portions of the County with no other towns to impede its progress. Kendallville west and Waterloo east, neither of which can injure Corunna. There are no towns in reach. This place is now a first class market and it is destined, for the lapse of many years to be with its extensive depot, one of the first markets of northern Indiana. It is understood that the freight house will be on a different plan from the one at Waterloo. There will be no bridge to strain teams in slippery weather, the grain will be drawn up in cars. This arrangement will suit the farmers of the western and northwestern portion of the county, most of whom now do their trading at Corunna, and many more will go thither sooner than to ruin a good team in drawing a heavy load up one of those slippery plank bridges." (Eli J. Sherlock)



This was a picture donated by Willard Stonebraker. They weren't quite sure where the picture was taken but I did think it showed quite a typical picture of the way the grain used to be hauled into the elevators. Most of the grain was hauled by a team and wagons into the elevator where it was usually hand-dumped.

Also notice the old steam engine! If you look you can see a railroad car sitting next to the elevator so more than likely, they hauled the grain out by steam engine to bigger centers.

Several of our men in the community worked out of Corunna on the railroad. One of the section crew that worked in maintaining the railroad on the east side of town in the 1900's give or take a few years either way, was a section crew headed by Ed McDonald as foreman. In his crew were a Mr. Hosler, a Mr. Patterson, Herman DePew, Garl Hissong, Carl Morrow, and Howard Becker.

On the following page, is a picture of a crew of men that worked in August, 1900, as they worked three and

e-half miles west of Corunna, on the Lake Shore and
chigan Tracks.



The section gang pictured above had its headquarters
Corunna and covered the track between Corunna and
ndallville. Identified in the picture, (all deceased)
om right to left are James McDonald, father of Archie
Donald of Corunna, and the foreman of the crew, Andy
wer; John Becker; Henry Hawk; George McDonald; Andy
sler; William McDonald; and Chancey Hissong.

Grade work for the road bed was done with picks, sho-
ls, hand barrows, and horse carts. The roadwork was
mpleted to Butler by May 27, 1856. The further along
ey came, the more abundent building materials and sup-
ies became and living became more comfortable for the
oneers.

In the picture above, John Becker, was killed by a
ain, as he worked in the winter time trying to keep
e ice off the tracks, that over-flowed while the tra-
s were gathereing up water and it sprayed on the tra-
s. He evidently didn't get off the tracks in time
d was hit by the waterpan.

Also if you notice in the above picture, you will see
the left of the picture, clear in the background, an
proaching train. On the right side of the picture,you
n see the old type hand cars that they used. These
re the hand-pumped. In later years, they got to use
torized cars.

In a newspaper item dated May 7, 1878, - The German
pulation of Corunna attended Church at Kendallville
ery Sunday. They went there by hand car on the R.R..

From the COURIER dated January 28, 1875 - "There
re 275 iron horses who kicked the stuffin out of each
her in the different railroads last year!" That's a lot.



Work on the New York Central Railroad Was Completed through DeKalb Co. before the turn of the century, and with trains running regularly, a maintenance crew was needed to keep the tracks in operation.

One of these hardy men was Archie McDonald, from Corunna. He is shown here on his three-wheel "speeder" as he patrolled the tracks between Edgerton and Bryan, Ohio, in 1910.

The "speeder" had the two wheels running on one track with a small wheel running on the second track. The "speeder" was powered by the handle seen in fromt of McDonald.

McDonalds duties included checking signals and switches along 18 miles of tracks between and through Edgerton,Stryker and Bryan, Ohio.

There were four sets of tracks, a high speed and low speed going each direction. The switches were set up in two mile stretches. As the engine entered the switch, it completed an electrical relay thus making the switch, and as the last car crossed the switch, the block closed.

McDonald had to keep the switches lubricated and the storage batteries in the signal base checked. The signal lights at this time were oil lamps on platforms secured to poles. They had to be filled and cleaned once a week - in nice weather or inclement weather; if the temperature was 90 degrees or minus 20 degrees.

McDonald worked four years on the Edgerton to Bryan route and was moved to Kendallville in 1914 where he made his run with a motorized "speeder."

Just as a note of interest to some people, The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was built when the land still in Richland Township. The round-house and turn-abouts were all located in Richland. In fact Richland township went to what is now Quincey Street and then turned to Butler Township.

Keyser Township was formed during the year 1876, from the townships of Richland and Butler Townships. Twelve sections were taken from each township so that Keyser has wr sections as does Richland and Butler Townships.

This was when the town of Garrett was formed, so when you attend their sentenial this year, think of is as part of once belonged to our township.



This is a picture of the catwalk crossing leading ack to the pump house and also shows the water tower. hyllis McDonald took this picture and said it was taken n 1922.

Mr. Orris Wise told me that the water was pumped into he tower and was always cold. Just below the tower was pond that formed from the water that was sprayed as he trains gathered their water, and when the tower over-lowed. He said the bravest and younger lads had quite good time going swimming in the stream! BRRR!!

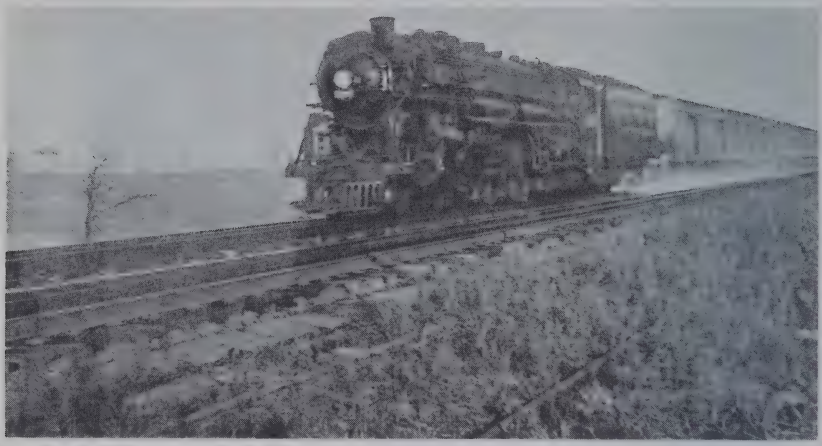


If you look between the tracks on this picture, you ill see the water-pans that the trains scooped the wa-er from as they went through town.

The troughs, according to Mr. Archie McDonald, were 000 feet long and he said that some of the faster tra-ns would go up to 70 miles an hour as they scooped wa-er up for the steam they needed to run on.

Most of the next few pages will have pictures of rains taken by Mr. McDonald of various stages of pick-

ing up water as they go through town.



Here you can see the water spraying along the side of the cars as the water is being scooped up.



The above picture shows where the train has already picked up the water and the water is spraying out of the top of the water car. Some of the longer freight trains had to stop and get filled with water as they weren't able to travel fast enough to get enough water scooped up in the 2000 feet trough.

In this picture you can see the water tower sitting on the right side of the picture. Hoses were used to fill trains that stopped.

A couple of these pictures were taken in 1954, so they were still using water pans then, so there are probably quite a lot of you in Corunna that know all about the water pans, although I have never seen one and it was all interesting too me.



In the early days the forest of DeKalb Co., abounded in all the varieties of wild game that were common throughout the west. The large animals are now about extinct, a few solitary specimens lingering among the remoter settlements. As late as October, 1874, a bear was killed in Richland Township. The following report was given in the Waterloo Press of Oct. 29, 1874.

"On Sunday last a black bear was seen coming out of the Baughman Marshes, southeast of town. It was fired upon by several parties, but none of them seem to have injured it. Monday several parties, of men with dogs and guns, turned out to hunt the game. The animal was

followed to the swamps south of Sedan, where the dogs brought it to bay, and it was shot to death by Messrs. Charles Rempis, James Booth and others. It is generally conceded that the dogs belonging to David Goodwin and William Kennedy were the most effective in running down the bear, and that these two men with A. Y. Rosenbury were the principal ones in getting track of it, and making the chase Monday. The hunters brought in the game in triumph, at about 1:00 p.m.

AN EXPENSIVE 'COON

The old-fashioned 'coon hunt is a time honored institution, but the sport of late years sometimes involves the votaries in heavy expenses. A crowd of young men near Newville found this out in 1876 to their complete satisfaction. While engaged in a hunt late in the fall, they cut down a dry oak-tree on the premises of Dr. Emanuel. To this proceeding the Doctor took exception, and entered suit against the parties in the Circuit Court for satisfaction and damages. The defendants, at the ensuing term of court, compromised the case by the payment of $75 in the way of costs, lawyers' fees and damages. Had the suit come to trial, it is said their bill for that 'coon tree would have come to over $150. As it was, the owner sold it for full value after it was felled; and it would seem that the hunters were not only compelled to pay for the tree, but to cut it down free gratis.

FOX HUNTS

Early in 1875 some interest was taken in fox-hunting by the athletic citizens of the county, and several circle hunts were held, with all due formality. Marshals and other officers were chosen, hunters were detailed on the different lines prescribed, no firearms were allowed, all dogs were led and loosed at command of the marshals. One (the first) was held at Corunna on Saturday, Jan. 23, 1875, and six foxes were caught. An immense crowd was in attendance, and all were delighted. February 6, following, between 2,000 and 3,000 people turned out to witness a hunt in Richland and Fairfield townships. Only three foxes were caught this time. A number escaped from the lines, owing to the inexperience of the managers. The game from both these hunts were sold at auction, and the proceeds given to the poor. Other hunts was held in various parts of the county and met with varying degrees of success.

DARING BURGLARY

Feb. 16, 1867, Saturday night, the county treasurer's office at Auburn was broken open and robbed of about $18,000. It was evidently done by an expert. Suspicion fell upon several parties, and different arrests were made, but the perpetrators were never discovered. After some months the matter was dropped.


A Happy New Year
to you and
yours
AND
NO
HEADACHES
365
DAYS OF
CHEER
100% PROOF

If you will refer back to page 11, on the map of Richland Township, you will see a drawing of Corunna, in small scale.

J. B. Frothingham of Brooklyn, New York, bought and laid out the original lots for the town of Corunna in 1859. He gave the school site to the community.

What is now Michigan Avenue was planned to be the main street of the town. This is the reason for it being wider than the other streets in town. It did not follow the original plans and Bridge Street became the main street and business district.

The first grist-mill was built at Corunna, by Obadiah Bear. The Air-Line division of the railroad made Corunna a good trading and shipping point, and was easily reached by local farmers and businessmen.

The first store was opened by A. McMillen in 1856. The building is now used as a drug store by Dr. Cissel, (History of 1880.) Childs, Chaffee and others soon had buildings and engaged in trade.

The first dwelling was that of Uncle Fulsum, now owned by Lafe Miller, station agent: The second was built by Calkin on the first lot sold, and is the home of the Widow Wallace (1880.)

Timothy Adams was the first grain buyer, and the first regular postmaster was Ira Bowen. A saw-mill was run by James Rowe and Burt Earle.

Most of the above came out of the DeKalb County, Ind. Plat book published in 1880.

The next list of businesses came out of the 'History of DeKalb County published in 1885. By the way, some of you people that are interested, there are several sets of books at the library in Auburn that contain information on lots of the old families that settled in DeKalb Co., and although they won't let you take the books out you can read them there. Very Interesting if you have the time to do it.

At Corunna the following are the business firms: F.G. Fried, General Store; Helmer & Metz, General store; Mercer & Baughman, drugs; B. G. Cissle, Drugs; John Lipsett, grocery; Wallace & Knapp, hardware; W. B. Adams, hardware; G. H. Miles, harness; J. Kirkpatrick, Agricultural implements; J. Lanning, grocery; John Baker Blacksmith; J. Kirkpatrick, blacksmith; Al. H. Williamson, wagon and repair shop; Dewitt Griffith, Barber; James Gettings, saloon; John Finch, repair shop; Mel. Reynolds, meat market; Osborn & Kline, saw-mill; Miles Calkins, saw-mill, brick and tile yard; Charles Imus, Union Hotel.

The medical profession is represented by Drs. F. Snyder, W. M. Mercer and W. H. Nusbaum. Corunna has two churches, both brick. The M. E. Church was built about fifteen years ago (about 1870) and that of the United Brethren denomination was erected in 1875.



There are two log cabins still situated in Corunna that I bet like me, many of you have passed them several times a day and didn't even know that they were there! I didn't, and was very surprised to see them. They have both been converted to garages and are both on the south edge of town.

The next time you enter Corunna from Garrett, stop at the ballfield, and look back towards the new house that Jack and Lois Albright built. On the left side of their driveway, they pass one of the cabins that was one of the original built in Corunna and is now fixed into a garage.

The one above, if you pull in the driveway at the U.B. Church and look toward the northwest, you will see it sitting there. This isn't a very good picture, but when I took a view the other way, Aldrich's silo stood right behind it, and they didn't build silo's back then! Take a look the next time you go through town!

NEWSPAPERS

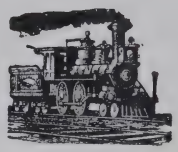
Did you know that Corunna had two newspapers printed in their town? If you will turn the page, you will see a copy of the front page of the first Newspaper called "The HEAD LIGHT!" I have another copy of the Headlight that was published on Tuesday, August 30, 1887, ninth year, number 16. On the front page of that one it said that the Head Light was established in 1878 by J. C. Loveland, Publisher. Prices for a single copy were 5¢ or 55¢ per annum. Still haven't figured out how it could have been established in 1878, yet the first copy that Mr. Harry Holmes has, said that it was Vol. 2, No. 3. Beats me!

This was written on one of the pages and Bob still saids its true. "The song of the katydid was heard three weeks ago and the farmers in Pennsylvania look for early fronsts. There is a current supersition that frost will occur six weeks after the appearance of the katydid."

The next page # 59, shows the first edition of "THE CORUNNA STAR" which was Volumne 1, No. 1 printed on Thursday, February 22, 1912. This was also Harry Holmes as were a lot of other papers he gave me to look at. The Corunna Star was published by Rex B. Wood, Editor,

"Advertising is the true Philosopher's Stone that turns every thing into gold."—ASTOR.

THE

Head  Light.

Vol. 2..... *No. 3*,

JANUARY, 1880.

TERMS:
FIFTY-CENTS PER ANNUM. SINGLE COPIES FIVE CENTS.

CIRCULATION 1,000, LIMITED.

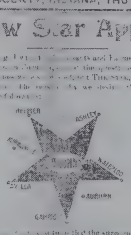
CORUNNA, INDIANA:
PRESS OF J. C. LOVELAND, TYPOGRAPHIC DESIGNER.
1880.

PEOPLE WHO SAY JUST WHAT THEY THINK ARE MORE NUMEROUS THAN POPULAR. BRING US YOUR JOB WORK.

THE CORUNNA STAR

LESS IN ADVANCE CORUNNA, DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1912. VOL. 1 NO. 1

A New Star Appears



Week-Day Sermons

BY

A STRAY SHOT

Logical, Humorous and Repartee

BY AARON RUBE

Help The Star Shine

By Subscribing

By Advertising

By Giving Us Your Job Work

By Giving Us Your Legal Advertising

BOOST!

with subscriptions at 5¢ per issue, 65¢ six months in advance, $1.25 yearly, in advance. I'll write you the center of the copy where it saids A NEW STAR APPEARS.

"When we arranged with the Merchants and Farmers' Boosters Club to establish a paper in Corunna, one of the questions to arise was the name. Many names were suggested, but THE STAR, suggested by the editor, was chosen. The reason why we desired this name is shown by a look and the following: On each point of the star is a town, Helmer, Ashley, Waterloo, Garrett, Avilla, with Auburn and Kendallville in between.

A study of the map revealed to us that the surrounding towns formed a star, with Corunna as the center. We do not mean any reflection they ought to be grateful that in the creation they were placed so near such a bright and glorious star. Some suggested that we ought to make Auburn and Kendallville dry and wet moons, respectively.

The Boosters Club guaranteed us 400 subscribers. While we are sending out 600 papers this week, the following are on the roll of honor. A lot of the names you will recognize if you get a magnifying glass!

Both copies were very fragile and I thank Harry for letting me use them.

The rest of the information that I have on Corunna, is mainly pictures. A lot of them are repeats of the same persons, but in most of them I have used them, because they have good background material.

KNAUER'S GENERAL STORE



"This is Corunna, the last place on earth. Here is where you live or die." This is the message on this post card given me by Mr. Archie McDonald. The picture was

taken about 1905.

The building in the foreground housed the Mercantile business established by Euramel Knauer & Son. Mr. Knauer settled in Richland township and clerked in a store from 1863 until 1865, when he went to Eddyville, Iowa, and engaged in the mercantile business for two years, at the end of which period, he returned to Corunna and was engaged for a like period. He then located in Kendallville where for 7 years he clerked in a mercantile establishment, but in 1874 again returned to Corunna, and engaged in that business under the firm name of J. W. Helmer and Com. After selling out to Mr. Helmer, he bought a stock of goods at Fairfield Center, which was conducted by his son Harvy for 2 years. This stock was destroyed by fire in 1886 and he established the present business, which later became the firm of Knauers Gen. Store.

Harvey Knauer married Mary Calkins on Oct. 5, 1890, and had 8 children, 7 of them lived and they resided in the living quarters on the 2nd floor of the building.

A pool hall was located in the building on the left side of the street. Next to the pool hall was the post office and a barber shop.

This building was destroyed early in 1970 by a fire which ruined the buildings interior and the frame was moved about two blocks west to a vacant lot. A fire in October burned the remains to the ground.



This shows a good view looking East toward Corunna. It is stamped on the back Nov. 8, 1906. As you can see their were quite a few houses in town. This picture as was Knauers and the next picture, were given to me by Archie McDonald.

On the next page you will find another view of Corunna looking toward the north from the bridge. The stores on the west side of the street look pretty much as they did in 1907, when this picture was taken.



The store building in the foreground housed a hardware store, bank, and telephone exchange.

Today the building houses a hardware store owned and operated by the Jordan Brothers and is the headquarters for Jordan Brothers Construction Company.

Milo Thomas owned and operated the hardware store and bank in 1907. The Thomas Hardware was stocked with everything from brass wash boards, selling for 20 cents to kettle covers, selling for 5¢.

And for the Thomas Hardware in the Nov. 20, 1914, Corunna News which had just changed editors and was now edited by William Cook, is quoted, "Don't burn up your new dress. Scores of women will do it this winter, in some poor, old base burner, and they'll get very little warmth out of it, too." The ad was selling "FAVORITE" base burner stoves, a triple-flued stove that "would save the housewife enough money to buy a new dress for Easter."

Talking about Jordan's Hardware, The other day when I was up talking to Donald Jordan. he gave me two copies of old Calenders put out by the Corunna Telephone Exchange listing the business in town and their telephone numbers. One was dated 1916 and the other 1918. I couldn't put them in here, however, so I'll list the business that were listed then. In 1916, Corunna Telephone C. F. Wilsey, Mgr.; Dr. F. S. Browne; Dr. J. H. Allin; M. J. Thomas, Hardware; Thomas Ex. Bank; J. H. Knauer, General Store; S. H. Barton; P. D. Graham, furniture; Earl Brant, Restaurant; Edw. Zonker, Hardware; Oster Bros. General Store; Corunna News; Chas Gilford; Zonker Bros. Meat Market; Arthur Amos, Blacksmith; M.Y.C. Depot; A. Good, Bakery; Jno. Guthrie; Eugene Treesh, Under-

aker; Earl H. Wise, Painter; Kit Wise, Painter; Wm. rane-Sedan; F. G. Reynolds, Carpenter;.

In 1918, J.H.Knauer, Store; S.H.Barton, Coal Dealer; James DeLong, Hotel and Draying; Thomas Exchange Bank; Jacob Sherrick, Restaurant; Wm. Zonker Store; Zonker Hardware; Freed's Ford Garage; Lloyd Oster, Bakery; M.J. Thomas, Hardware; Osters' Store; Meat Market; Eugene Treesh, Funeral Directon; Wm. Krahn Store; Wm. Crane Store; Dr. F. S. Browne; Earl Wise, Painter; M. E. Reynolds, Lumber Dealer; Elevator; F. M. Wiltrout Res., Feed Grinding; Job Office; Edw. Zonker, Furniture; Depot; Rev. Chas. Jones,M. E. Pastor; Wm. Stomm, Lumber Dealer.



This was a picture given by Luella Vian Zerkle of the Old Corunna Blacksmith Shop that exploded in 1911. It was caused by a gas leak. At the time of the explosion Orris Wise said his Dad, Earl Wise, was up at the shop having their horse Barney shod. If you look close in the picture back in the left corner of the building, you can see their horse Barney lying. He had been killed in the blast. The only ones identified were the 2nd man from the left was John Shippy, and the 2nd man from the right was Earl Wise.

see page 67

On the next page, you will find a picture of the Corunna Elevator that had just been erected by Harvy Knauer. We have had several different opinions on when the elevator was built, but probably the best record of when it was built would be that in a paper I have from Harry Holmes written Sept. 9, 1915, it has an article written about the need that Corunna has for a first rate elevator, and it wasn't listed in the telephone listings in 1916 but was in 1918, so sometime between 1915 and 1918 the elevator was built!

The mill stood for a good many years but was destroyed by fire in either 1972 or 1973. O.A. Wise picture.



Do you remember when the Corunna, Indiana, Concert Band was considered the best band in Northern Indiana in 1880? This picture was dated April 30, 1932 and was printed in the Fort Wayne News paper. This photo is the property of J.K. Adams, Avilla, Ind., was given by O. A. Wise.

and members pictured on page 64, reading from left to ight; Henry Becker, "driver of band wagon"; Charles napp, Frank Borst, William Wallace, William A. (Dad) alkins, Peter Becker, Ira Gushwa (mascot,) Henry Kai- er, Edward Hammond; Milo Calkins (leader), Lin. Cal- ins, Frank McCullough, Charles Calkins, Frank Britten, . Harvey Knauer, only member of this band who is play- ng at present and is a member of Auburn Band now: Char- es Wise and Theodore Adams.



This is a picture of the old Corunna Bandstand that tood where the park is located today and as you can see n the east side of the elevator. The picture was taken y Phyllis McDonald Wiley in 1922, and shows Thelma hroyer and Luella Vian seated on the platform.

Also in the park sitting n the wooden slide, Was Lu- lla Vian.

Mainly used this for the ackground material. If ou can make the writing out n the building in the back- round, you will see that it aids "Birdsell Wagons."

This building was just estroyed by fire in 1975.



Have a few more pictures f the park, if you'll look t the next few pages.

Some of the people said hat they used to have a age of racoons, although I ouldn't find any pictures.

This is also a picture taken by Phyllis McDonald of the slide that was in the park. It was wooden, but was supposed to be as smooth as glass.

They couldn't identify who the sliders were but it was taken in 1922, so maybe you'll be able to recognize them.



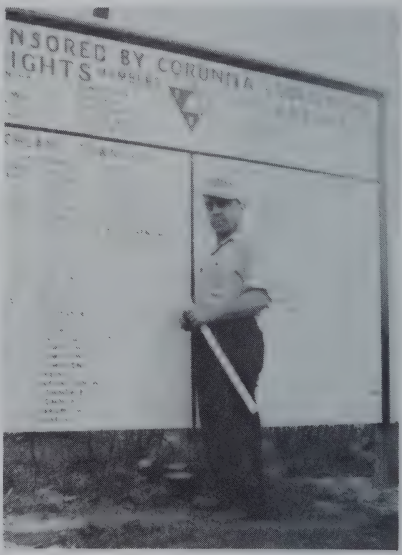


Here Ford is standing beside a billboard that he did the lettering on Knights and Pythias mem bers.

Ford worked at the Auto plant in Auburn, and Mrs. Wise told me that she has seen Ford paint a strip around one of the old cars without a guideline, and you couldn't see where he had begun or where he left off. She said he was a really good painter, and a good printer also.

This is a picture taken in the Corunna Park and you can just see the corner of the bandstand. The bridge in the background makes a good setting for Uly Vian and Ford Zerkle.

The Zerkles gave me the pictures to use as they did the next one below.



THE CORUNNA ELEVATOR



Finally got it in. Sorry about that!



This picture was taken on may 20, 1921 and donated
y Mrs. Ford Zerkle.
It was taken in front of the Corunna School house,
here they were in the process of making sidewalks!
In the foreground are John Shippy, Louis (Soup)
rossley, and Ulysses (Uly) Vian.

Seems like I'm forgetting everything I wanted to
ut in! Anyway for you people like me that knew that
orunna has really been on the map since the railroad
ent through, which was in 1956 or 1958, the Town of
orunna, was not officially incorporated into a town
ntil July 9, 1902.

REMEMBERING FATHER: A LAMPLIGHTER
Written by Jane Kempf
as told by Luella Vian Zerkle

Gaslights were a long step forward at the turn of the century. Until then, only the sun and the moon lit cities and towns.

Mrs. Ford (Luella) Zerkle, Waterloo, remembers when they got gas street lights in Corunna about 1906. Her uncle, Bill Shroyer, was the first lamplighter and Luella and cousins, Walter and Thelma Shroyer, then ages 11, 8, and 10, helped turn out the lights at 9:30 or 10 p.m. each night.

"Uncle Bill lit about 100 lamps each night, just at dusk, and we kids would snuff them out. We'd start at the far end of town, and run like the dickens to the next light because we were a little afraid of the dark," Luella reminisced.

Mrs. Zerkle's father, Ulysses Vian, took over the lamplighting chores from "Uncle Bill" and kept the job until 1925 when electric street lights were installed. Luella married Ford Zerkle July 13, 1925, and Ford worked for the electric company that put "her Dad out of business."



Mr. Vian earned $20 a month as the town's official lamplighter when "people really thought it was something to have lamps" his daughter recalled. "The gas lamps would look like a candle now, but they were really progress then," she said.

Ford remembered the plant that generated gas for the lamps. It was on the site now occupied by Albright's Grocery at U.S. 6 and 327. Carbide and water were used to recharge the plant to make gas for the lamps.

"Father always kept us kids out of the plant because it was dangerous," Luella said. "But I remember how cousin Walt would shiney up the poles to fix the chains that snuffed out the lamps."

The lamplighters carried a small ladder as they made heir rounds and used it to get high enough to light the gas wicks. Each lamp had a glass globe but the Zerkles weren't sure what happened to the old lamps when they ere replaced. "I suppose they were sold for scrap. sn't it a shame we didn't realize how valuable they ight be today? But you can still see the gas pipes for the old lamps in the attic of the Corunna U.B. Church."

The Zerkles recalled that people lived at a differnt pace in the early 1900's. Mr. Vian, in addition to is duties as lamplighter made $30. a month carrying ail from the post office to the depot in a push cart. is grandchildren, Gladys Zerkle Clear, now of Waterloo, nd Wayne Vian, June Wildoner and Coleen Vermillien, ll of Marion, used to hitvh rides from Mr. Vian on the ost office cart. "He was a wonderful father," Mrs. erkle said with a sunny smile. Then she laughed aloud. "I remember the time he went to call the water wagon to ut out a fire. Halfway through the bell tolling, the ull rope broke and there he stood, thoroughly frustraed."

Life's pace for Ford and Luella isn't too much different today, only more convenient, with electricity nd inside plumbing and electronic gadgets.

Their home is on Railroad street at the west edge of Waterloo, isolated from traffic and shaded with big old trees they planted when they were newly married. Luella t a young 66„ and Ford, a few years older, are retired ow. They have a good-sized garden and Ford is proud f his fruit trees, on which he has grafted different fruit. He can tell you the "right and wrong" way to uild a martin house, how to graft fruit trees, how to ud graft, and what to use Wazoo tree roots for (it's a athartic,) and almost anything about nature. He is an fficial weatherman for the U. S. Weather Bureau.

A ferny patch of the old-fashioned herb, tansy, grows near the house. "Tansy is great chopped and added to an omelet," Luella reports. The couple still make pickles and sauerkraut and dry sweet corn for good eating in the winter.

The Zerkles take time to sit in the airy back yard under the shade of the trees Ford planted 40 years ago and make visitors most welcome.

And from time to time they tell visitors about Ulysses Vian a "wonderful father." Ulysses Vian, who celebrated his birthday by standing on his head on the now red, white, and blue Corunna Bridge, until he was 70. It was then Luella talked him out of his annual birthday stunt for fear he'd break a hip.

Ulysses Vian, who brought light to Corunna and a brighter light to his daughter's eyes.

This is a picture of Phyllis McDonald Wiley when she was working at the grocery store and post office. It was all in one building and whoever happened to be their when anyone came in to the store, took care of the post office also.



Across the road you can see the sign of Fisk - Tires and Tubes. I called and asked her if they made tires there but she said it was just like an of our garages today. Her son John Wiley donated the picture. Had to put that in, because John said that his Mom threatened to disown him and quick speaking to him if her picture got in this book. I told her not to do that because she did give me some very good pictures for this book. She said that she had gotten a camera in 1922, and just took pictures of everything! I'm glad she did! below is one she took, that I think is real good.



This was a picture taken from the east of the bridge where she lived. As you can see first hand, they had mud back in those days too.

If you look up the street, you can see that Corunna used to have billboards standing along the sidewalks. In the background stands the old Elevator. Across the bridge is the old fire-bell that they called the fire-

brigade to a fire.

The stores that you can see there are supposed to be a drug store operated by O.P. Raber, Druggist and Notary Public, in the corner building on the east side of the bridge. On east down the street was where the old fire-house stood, and the building that is still standing (brown building next to where the fireman just put in cement) was supposed to be an ice cream store or a bakery that was run by Lloyd Oster. They might have both been in there at some time or other, but I was told there was a bakery there and also an ice cream store so you can take your pick.



Going North across the bridge shows Lillian Carper on the left and Phyllis McDonald on the right.

They were standing in front of the Oster Brothers General Store. The door just to the right of Phyllis led up to the dance hall which was located above the drug store which was downstairs in that building.

The Oster Brothers, John and Elza built this building in the fall of 1910 after a fire in 1908 had destroyed Charles Musher's Saloon, Zonkers General Store, and another business. It was sold in 1954 to the Albrights where they began a grocery store.



This little boy in the foreground is not the main topic in this picture. Mrs. Wise thought the boy looked like Tommy Zonker but she wasn't sure.

The background is what was the most interesting part of the picture.

Notice the car and still we have the horse and buggy.

Supposedly on the left side of the picture was Zonkers Grocery, then next too it, was the Bank, and then the Bait Store.

I think it depends on who you are talking too, and what year. All Different!!



This picture may bring back memories of some of our younger Corunna boys. Talked to Raymond Oster, and he said that a salesman that was selling Capital City Paint asked them too pose with his hats on. We've identified almost all of them, and if you can think of the other one, make sure you tell Raymond! He just couldn't think of him. Top Row: LeRoy Wiltrout, Floyd Vian,_____Wells, and unknown. Middle row: Gordon Treesh, Raymond Oster, Roland (Jack) Carper, Harold McDonald. First Row: Hugh Farrington, Oscar Wells and Ronald Treesh.



As was the above picture, this too was donated by Luella Ford.

This you would have to say was the Zonkers and Luella.

In the Front Row: Dessie Zonker, LaVerne Zonker, and Luella Vian. In the back row are Thelma Zonker and Marvel Zonker.

I don't know what I would have done without some of Luella's pictures. I wanted to get permission to use the article that was in the paper on her father, and she sent over all the rest of the pictures. Oh, for more like her!



I bet every woman in this picture, would gladly give their eye teeth, to have those dolls back. What a rare antique that would be for their grandchildren!

In the front row are: Luella Vian, Thelma Zonker, Phyllis McDonald. Behind them are: Lillian Carper and Thelma Shroyer.

Just another one from Luella, that shows when a bunch of her girl friends decided to have a wedding!

They even went to church for the big scene, the United Brethern Church's steps.

The Groom was Blanche Harding, a daughter of Gus Harding; the Bride was Thelma Zonker, while the flower girls in the back row were Levoma Zonker and Luella Vian. Both of the Zonker girls were daughters of Bill Zonker, while Luella was Uly Vian's daughter.





This picture was taken 52 years ago on the Corunna Bridge. They were 15 years old at the time! Luella Vian is on the left and Flossie Crossley Geeting on the right.

The gals in the picture below are: Thelma (Snyder) Shroyer, Luella (Vian)Ford and Iola(Dellenbach) Bowers.

Notice the old gas light in the background. Wish I had one now!



CHILDHOOD LULLABY

When I;m feelin' kinda lonely, And the blues have come to rest, When the pains of gettin' older, Rise to put me to the test.

Oh, it's then I'm fond of dreamin', (Seems like just the other day,) When I was young and lively, And did nothin' much but play.

Well, it's almost forty years now, Since the day when I was ten, Don't know where the years have gone to, (Oh, to live them once again!)

Oh, those days of happy freedom, and the games of yesteryear, Games like "I Spy," "Freeze," and "Red Light!"(How I wish the gang were here.)

But now the days go by much faster, And as problems multiply, I take time to do some dreamin', In my childhood lullaby.

Written by Al Wilner

The above was a poem written in the "GOOD OLD DAYS" magazine that I thought was quite appropriate and hope you enjoyed reading it also.



This picture was taken in December 1934, standing on he bridge looking to the north. As you can see, most f the people had cars as there aren't any hitching osts for the horses, in front of any of the buildings.

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The following was written by Mrs. Orris Wise. The passing of the "Movie house" brings mixed emotions o us who have passed 30. Going to the movie was a real ate! The fun and romance of hand holding, popcorn ating, laughing at the comics, crying sometimes just oesn*t seem to return in the atmosphere of TV watching. very town in DeKalb County can boast of having one or ore movie houses at some time during it's history. Mr. nd Mrs. Wayne Goodwin, formally of Waterloo can be re- embered as owners of the Waterloo and Butler Movies, nd for the good shows they brought to these communit- es. They are still in the business at Angola but find t harder to furnish the kind of movies once available. ow sad it would be if we weren't equipted with the fa- ility of remembering. "Pleasures fades like a flower nd memory is the lasting perfume." As Gleason would ay "How sweet it is.""

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Letter written by Rosa Poer on Oct. 22, 1969. anaging Editor, Auburn, Indiana. Dear Sir: Your obser- ation of the progress in Auburn encouraged me to send he following list to remind the senior citizens of de- alb County of what Corunna used to be. We had the fol- owing businesses: 1 bank, 2 barber shops, 2 basketball yms, 1 blacksmith shop, 1 bakery, 3 churches, 3 cream- eries, 1 carbide street light system, 3 doctors, 1 de- livery barn, 1 dance hall, 1 drug store, 2 department , clothing and grocery stores, 1 elementary school, 1 tire station, 1 grist mill, 1 furniture store, 2 garages 1 high school, 2 hotels, 2 hardwares, 1 harness shop, 2 ice cream parlors, 1 K.P.Lodge, 1 meat market, 1 pool

room, 1 millinery store, 1 N.Y.C. depot, 1 park, 1 post office, 1 stockyard, 2 r3staurants, 2 taverns, 1 telephone office, 1 theatre, 1 undertaker.

As you see, it took care of the needs of the people of this community in a very satisfactory way.





These pictures were taken on July 12, 1955, at the Methodist Church in Corunna. Mrs. Zerkle didn't identify any of the people in the pictures except to say that some of them had passed away.

The ones that were deceiased were Helen Manrow Bowers, Margurite Manrow Werkshire, and Emma Vian.

In the picture on the right, she had on the back of the photo, Shilia, Grandma Vian, Me. and Grandpa Zerkle and others.

****

There existed for several years in Corunna two groups known as the Rovers and Roverines. These were men and women in an organized Sunday School Class which were not affiliated with any one church. They "roved" from church to church as well as meeting seperate sometimes, hence came the names of the groups. The membership was quite large and the teachers were outstanding citizens.

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The town has not been without Doctors until very recently. At one time there were three Doctors living here and serving the cimmunity. Some of these were: Dr. Allin, Dr. Snyder, Dr. Mercer, who later became a State Senator from our section of the county, Dr. Shook, Dr. Rudolph, Dr. Bowan and Dr. Phillips.

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"Ryan and Maden have put a new hack on the road. It is quite attractive and looks like a good piece of workmanship. Swihart pulls the reins on the cream team which draws the vehicle."



This is a picture taken in 1912 of the Corunna Christian Church. This must have been a special day with so many in attendance. There are around 125 people there, some from the Loyal Men's Class, from the Loyal Women's Class, From the Loyal Boys Class, from the Loyal Girls Class and there are certainly a lot of children there but I didn't see any banner for them.

In the November 11, 1915, paper under the church news, it said that Next Sunday is home-coming Sunday and they expect a great day. They were planning of having a bountious dinner to be served at noon. Afternoon services begin at 2 o'clock with the Ladies in charge of the song service.



The Knights of Pythians Lodge dates back to 1890 when they were organized in the town of Corunna. The Lodge rooms, owned by the members, is on the top floor of the present Jordon Hardward Building.

Meetings are held twice a month with some of the present members decendents of the charter members of the club.

Charter members of the Lodge when it began in 1890 were: Charles Knapp, W. M. Drury, O. P. Raber, M. J. Thomas, G. H. Miles, V. Steffee, S. P. Becher, Milo Calkins, E. A. Wise, C. L. Kelley, Joel Treesh, H. J. Knauer, John Griffith, F. S. McCullough, F. Quince, W. H. McGiffin, David Shook, P. D. Childs, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Hine, J. B. Childs, Lefi Hewitt, J. E. Hammond and two others taken in in March 1890 were J. A. Stuller and John DuBois.

THE PHTHIAN SISTERS LODGE



The Phthian Sisters Lodge dates back to the 1890's when they were organized in the town of Corunna.

They were quite active until just recently when they disbanded.

Charter members of the Lodge were: Winnie Oster, Lucy Quince, Mary Knauer, Clla Treesh, Joe Keen, Hattie Keen, Elizabeth Wise, Mary Ann Wise, Belle Harding, Vesta Thomas, Mary Strause, Angie Griffith, Phoebe Griffith, Mary McGiffin, Jennie Adams, Mertie Shook, Anna Childs, Edna Orr and Minnie Finch.

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The land grant on the next two pages, is one of the original grants given out for sale of property. This piece of land is now land that is owned by the Late Roy Leins and his wife Marie Leins, on Co. Road 32 in Richland Township. The president at the time was Martin Van Buren, and evidently different secretaries did the actual signing as down below it saids By The President: Wm. Wilson acting recorder of the General Land Office Ad Interium.

They said over at the printing press where we had these books printed, that the original land grants were made on animal skin and they thought that this one could have been pig skin. It is in very good condition for being printed 137 years ago and as they said parchment paper would have been gone long before this if it wouldn't have been printed on skin.

CERTIFICATE
No. 17260

THE UNITED STAT

To all to whom these Prese

WHEREAS Benjamin B. Dearborn of Wayne Cou

ha[s] deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGI whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Benjamin B. De *according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making* South West quarter and the West half of the S West fourth Range twelve East in the Fort Wayne, containing one hundred and sixty

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land O

Benjamin B. Dearborn,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the and by these presents* DO GIVE AND GRANT, *unto the said* Benjamin B. De *and to his heirs, the said tract above described:* TO HAVE AND TO HOLD *the same, togethe belonging, unto the said* Benjamin B. Dearborn,

IN TESTIMONY

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERI

LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN *under my hand, at the* **CITY OF WASHI**

Lord one thousand eight hundred and

the Thirty third

BY THE PRE

Recorded, Vol. 23 Page 161

I'll try and type here what is written in writting on this land grant. Certificate # 17260. Whereas Benjamin B. Dearborn of Wayne County, New York ------- Fort Wayne--Benjamin B. Dearborn "for the sale of public

TES OF AMERICA.

sents shall come, Greeting:

unty, New York

EGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Fort Wayne

Dearborn,

king further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the East half of the South East quarter of Section Eight in Township Thirty four of Range Twelve East of the District of Lands subject to sale at Fort Wayne, containing one hundred and sixty acres,

Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said

NOW KNOW YE, That the the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, Dearborn,

ether with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto and to his heirs and assigns forever

Y WHEREOF, I, Martin Van Buren

ERICA, have caused these letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL

SHINGTON, the twentieth day of August in the Year of our and Thirty Eight and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES**

Martin Van Buren

RESIDENT:

J. Wm. Moore

acting RECORDER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

ad interim

lands for "The east half of the South West Quarter and the West Half of the South East Quarter of Section 8 in Section 34. of Range 12.east in the district of lands subject to sale at Ft. Wayne Ind., Containing 160 acres. Signed by Martin Van Buren; 20th Aug,38, 63 years.



This is an old picture of the Corunna Greens taken in 1903. They were a pretty good team then, winning 21 games out of 24.

Back Row: Ray Goodwin, Harry McCullough, Bud McCullough, Earl Wise, Doug Wallace, Manager, one of the Hoffmeyer's, don't know, Walter Reynolds.

Front Row: Howard Becker, Rube Childs and John Hissong. Bat Boy was Oscar Reynolds.



CORUNNA GREENS IN 1920's

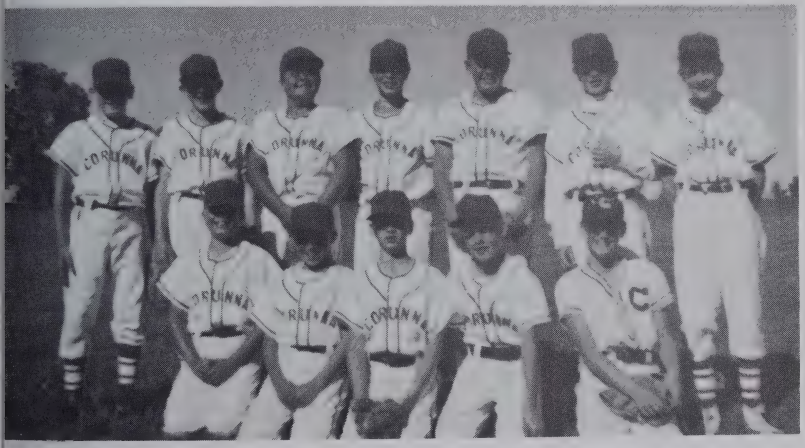
The picture on the preceeding page of the Corunna Greens in 1920's were a very good ball team. In fact I guess they were supposed to have lost only one or two games and that was to a profesional baseball team, The Denver Bears. The Bears won two and the Greens only won one.

They played up into the 1930's and at one time in the 30's, they won the Tri-County Championship Title.

By that time though, its name had been changed and they were known as the Corunna A. C.'s. They changed their name because by then they were playing basketball.

Team members were identified as, Back row: George Shaffer, Bill Tucker, Ray Goodwin and Guy Griffity. Middle Row: George Moger (?), Jay Zonker, Estel Goodwin, Bud McCullough, Alt Hovarter, Oscar Reynolds. Front row: Earl Wise, Earl Farrington, Howard Becher, Jay Thompson and John Hissong. Could't identify the bat boy. Pitchers for the team were Earl Wise and John Hissong.

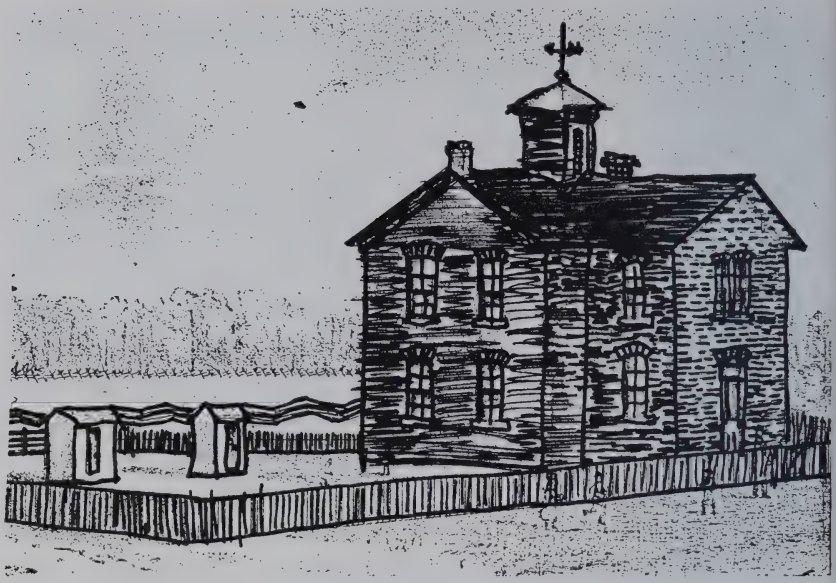
One member of the team Guy Griffith, was killed on the way coming home from a game in Hudson. Their car was struck by a railroad engine and it was an open car, and the boy riding with him was thrown clear but Guy was killed from a broken neck.



This team was also a Corunna Team, but they weren't nearly as good as the other Corunna teams. They lost a few games but won a few also. Had a lot of fun trying though. This was the Corunna A. Team back in 1967 with Forest Strawser as manager. They had a regular league and played teams all around this area.

Team members were bottom row: Steve Jordan, Ronald Payton, Neil Holmes, Tim High, and Rick Payton. Back row: Charley Brewer, Bill Brewer, Lee Auld, Bobby Sliger, Steve Leins, Charley Martz, and Randy Strawser. Randy did the biggest share of the pitching, but it seemed like they all took a hand at it once in awhile!

PUBLIC SCHOOL, CORUNNA, IND.



The first Corunna School, pictured above was built in 1861, on a site donated to Corunna by John B. Frothingham. Frothingham bought land in and around the town site and donated the land for the school house with the stipulation that if no school was built the land would revert to the donor. Bricks used to build the two-story building were hand pressed at the Calkins Tile mill located about one-half mile south of Corunna. This school proved inadequate for the growing enrollment by 1892. It was razed at this time and a new one story building was built. Students attended classes in the Knauer building, located in the south part of town, while the new school was being constructed.

The new school consisted of two large rooms. The foundation was built of native stone. The floors were one quarter inch native oak laid on 2x12 white poplar stringers spaced 12 inches apart. Wood to fire the heating stoves was stored in a shed at the back of the school house. The story is told about a plank being placed from the shed through a window in the school and large chunks of wood, too heavy to be carried, slid right to the stove.

In 1915, the Corunna School board authorized a three year high school curriculum for the community and an addition was added to the existing building.

On the next page, you will see a copy of the school building when the new addition had been added to accomodate the high school that Corunna was adding to their schools. This building was built in 1892 and consisted of a two room one story building. In 1915 an addition

was built to accomodate a three year high school. The



addition is on the right side of the picture above. The high school remained in existance for several years, ending in 1929. Elementary school continued until the county consolidated some of the territories into community schools. Orris Wise was a freshman when this picture was taken.

A growing population, growing educational needs, and modernization have silenced the little red school house bell. The Corunna School bell rang for the last time in the spring of 1967, after tending children for a century.

CORUNNA CLASS OF 1918-1919



First Row: John Arthur Reed, Lester Wilsey, Orris Wise, Harold McDonald, Leroy Wiltrout, John Burtchner, Bill Patterson. Second Row: Blanche Harding, Phyllis (McDonald) Willey, _____Wiltrout, Grant Lindsey, Helen (Laisure) Smith, Harriet (Holman) Rowe, Iola (Dellenbauch) Bowers, Bertha Patterson, Luella (Vian) Zerkle, Dorothy (Bard) Sellers, Flossie (Crossley) Geeting and Lillian Carper. Third Row: Teacher, Lynn Arthur, Ralph Manrow, Glen Shroyer, Chester Bard, Ted Childs, Floyd Vian, Rose (Smith) Means, Kathern (Dawson) Willson, Edwin Dellenbauch and Earl Reed.



CORUNNA SCHOOL 1939-1940

Front row: Beverly Barnhart, Joan Laisure, Roberta Dawson, Dorothy Brandenberry, Donald Bowman, _____ Robert Mavis, Virginia Shultz, _____.
Second Row: _____, Wynemia McDonald, Ada Ruth Freed, _____, Dorothy Jean Werkheiser, _____ Robert Dawson, and Junior Bowman.
Back Row: Richard Hissong, William Patterson, Fritz Brandenberry, Dave Buss, and Mrs. Reinhart.



CORUNNA CLASS OF 1945

First Row: Charles McDonald, Jerry Zonker, Max Laisure and Bob Wilcox.
Second Row: Ruth Smith, Jeanette Owens, Richard Squires, Evelyn Fike, Helen Cline, Robert Hissong.
Third Row: Marilyn Buchanan, Virginia Schultz, Ed Mast, Joy Bowers Bob Smith, Barbara Harter, & Max Lowe.
Back Row: Dorothy Brandenberry, Phyllis Hissong, Richard Hissong, Frank lin Harter.

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FALL PRODUCTS AT SCHOOL

This came out of the December 2, 1915, Corunna News: The children of the Richland Township held a school Fair at the Richland school Friday.

A fall fair was held at the school house last Friday, and conducted in the same manner as the county fairs held at the larger places.

Three tables completely filled with farm products brought in by the boys and a table filled with cakes, bread, and other articles that the domestic science

class had prepared for the occassion.

Prizes was awarded as first, second and third premiums given on all articles brought in. The judges of the farm products were Perry Foote, Frank Dawson and Amos Keen and of the Domestic science articles were Mrs. Amos Keen, Mrs. Henry Keen, and Mrs. Jesse Votrie.

The forenoon was spent in judging the articles which took considerable time as there were 165 entries in all. The premium ribbons were attached to each article, 1st premium blue, 2nd red, and 3rd was green.

The afternoon was spent listening to a fine program prepared by the teachers, Miss Ada Weihmuller and Jay Olinger. After the program Mrs. Lydia Leasure and Perry Foote both gave the schoolars a fine talk and praise on their fine entrie products, this being the first school fair of this kind in this section of the country.

The School room was filled even the standing was all taken being over one hundred present, this day will remembered the longest day of their life, and was enjoyed by all that were present."

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GRADUATES OF 1975



This picture was taken of part of the 1975 DeKalb High School Graduates when they were in Kindergarten in Corunna. Kneeling in the front row: Ronald Grate, John Clark, Susanne Albright and Dave Gurtner. Sitting down: Jeff Krider, Henry Fluke, and Tina Blackman. Third Row: Diane Fike, Becky Aldrich, Karen Hissong, Patty Jordan, Tim Brandon, Steve Provines, Don Pefferkorn, and Deborah JoAnn Smith. Back Row: Mrs. Rupperta Likens, teacher, Randy Strawser, Elvis Terry, Robert Sliger, Linda Jo Vian, Letha Pankop, Lee Auld and the music teacher Mr. Buckner.

THE CORUNNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

This evening, May 28,1975, we found out that the fire departments in this county are used for other things then fighting fire!

A niece, age 3, and a nephew, age 6, of the Richard Stonekings on Co. road 28, wandered a little too far from their Uncles farm and found themselves lost in a woods. The little girl was found by Dale Treesh walking in his wheat field about a half-mile from where they had started.

He brought her up to Marie Leins' farm and asked her if she knew who she was? After several telephone calls they found where she belonged and found that the 6 year old boy was still missing, and they needed help looking for him. This was at about 7:00 p.m., so the fire-department was called in and started combing the woods and creek ditches for him.

From the other side at Stonekings, the sheriff had been called in and were calling the other fire departments from the area beside 2 canine police dogs. When Julie Leins and I went over to the Stonekings to see if the boy had by chance wandered over there, there were about 14 cars parked in the driveway and they had already started out one dog and were just getting organized to start looking for him. There had been an airplane in the air for about one hour by this time looking for him without any luck!

We went back to Co. Road 32 where the fire department from Corunna had started hunting, and met Anthony Wesolowski just coming up from the creek that runs by his farm carrying the young boy. He was cold and wet but otherwise alright.

We started blowing our horns so that our Fire department would know that he had been found and later on when they had come up, they had said that they had heard two shots which must have been the signal from the Stonekings.

We talked to the Deputy with the dog that was following him, and he said that he was right behind him because the dog had just tried to wade in the creek, but he pulled him up and was starting to go on up the creek, when he heard that he had been found.

A happy ending to what could have become a sad story but not one of those firemen from any department thought about quitting until he had been found. And all on their own time too, and at night on top of it!

And Mr. Wesolowski doesn't even belong to the fire department, he just happens to be a father with 6 children of his own and I know how I would have felt if it would have been one of mine out there, which I imagine is just about how he felt!

1970 CORUNNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Firt Row: Jerry Newcomer, Syrene Stahl, Jack Patten, Art Drerup, Herb Grate, Fritz Brandenberry and Jack Wiley. Second Row: Gerald Boyd, Gary Oliver, Bill Cook, Jay Christman, Dave Crossley, Mike Walters & Claude Buss.

The Corunna Fire Department has been in existence for a good many years so the best man to talk to was Art Drerup who has been on the Fire Department for 22 years this fall. I could find no records on any of the old fire Departments so we were going back to memory land to see how much we could remember.

I had talked to Archie McDonald, and he had told me about when he was on the fire department back in 1906 or 1908. He said he was just a lad at the time, but that he can still remember pushing that cart around that they called their fire truck then! It was just a cart that had a six or eight foot tank on it that was filled with water and when they put this chemical in it it would make a pressure that would put out fires!

Later on they got a Model T one ton truck and put the tank on it so they could ride instead of walking and pushing! The tank was about 18 inches in diameter and I can imagine it would be quite a job shoving around all that water!

Later on Bill Patterson got a new truck and he donated to the town his old Buick Touring Car to be used as a fire truck. They cut the back seat off and installed the tank on the back of the car and that was their fire truck until 1953 when they got a used 1948 Chevrolet Pumper that held 1000 gallons of water.

I asked Art if he could remember who were any of the men on the department, and he said that if a fire was reported, the siren was sounded and whoever went to help was considered a fireman at the time. They had no organization until in 1953, when the town asked Art if he would try to organize a Fire Department.

He said that he couldn't remembered the exact date that the town got the 1948 Pumper but that it was in the fall of 1953. They brought her in on a Saturday and the town board appointed me to go along with the engineers of the truck, where they went to the Creek by Bob Borens on U.S. 6 and spent all day Saturday and Sunday teaching him to operate the truck.

Then on Monday night, Art Blew the fire whistle and took off to Co. Road 28, where he turned around and went back into town. By the time he got to town, there were about twenty men following him and that was how they started the fire Department.

That night they elected Willis Matson, as Fire Chief with Charles Patterson as Assistant Chief, and Art Drerup was Secretary Treasurer. Some of the other members were Bill Reil, George Grate, Larry DeWitt, Ed Lowe, Claude Payton, Sr. and Claude Payton, Jr., Junior Bowman, Gerald Boyd, Dick Hissong, and that was all that he could remember off hand. They started meeting once a month on Monday nights ever since 1953. As Art said, "It's a good organization and a bunch of nice men belong to it."

Art said that when they first joined, their were about 16 men that joined the department. Right now their about men that belong to the department. They are quite active and have done several projects to help improve the town of Corunna.

Last year, they decided to help clean up the town of Corunna, and spent all day Saturday picking up garbage in a donated cattle truck, and hauled at least 4 big loads to the County Dump.

Then they decided to have a festival on the 4th of July. This used to be quite an event back in the early days but had not been held for several years.

In fact I have a letter printed in the Waterloo Press on Thursday, June 25, 1908, that will bring back memories. This is the contents of the letter:

"On the leaflet sent me from your bank is printed that Corunna will celebrate the 4th this year. That statement was good for quite a talk between wife and I. Just fifty years ago Corunna had its fourth of July celebration. My wife and I were there and we wondered if there were another couple in the surrounding country that was in attendance at that time. Corunna was a lively little town then. I remember old Mr. Adams had a store on the south side of the railroad, consisting of hardware, drygoods and groceries. On the north side in a log building Charles McCool kept the Post office and some dry goods. George McMillen was a hostler then. The town people fitted up a grove south of town near where the tile mill stood. Sanford Blake delivered the oration. It was a new thing for that vicinity and most of the old timers met, such as Esq. Brown, Lewis, Britton, Nelson Griffith, Thomas Daily and the Two Dearborns, Barney and Richard, and hosts of others with their wives and children. Oh, how we would like to attend this year but I am afraid we can't on account of ill health, especially the wife's. Wishing you may enjoy a nice celebration, I remain as ever, Your Friend Jonathan Smalley."

This was sent to Mr. Thomas who evidently was the editor then of the Waterloo Press.

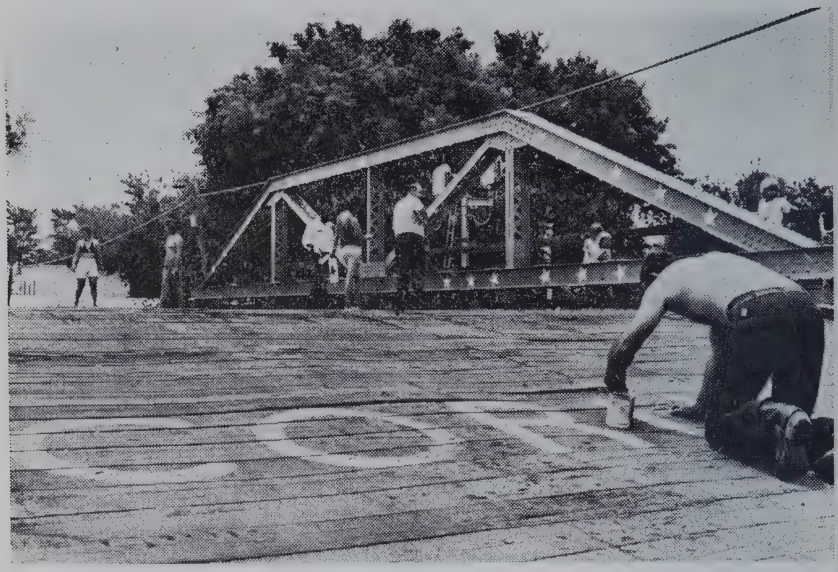
On the next page, since we are talking about the fourth of July celebration, is a picture donated to me by Mrs. Calvin Holman, when her husband took part in the Parade held in July of 1903.

As you can see they all had masks on but was in typical style with the stars and stripes. Mrs. Holman said that she wouldn't have known her husband, except it was his team and he didn't like to have anyone else drive it, so she was pretty sure that the man holding the reins was Cal.

Last year, Corunna put on her best bib and tucker and made the Fort Wayne papers and other national papers when they painted the bridge in town that goes over the railroad. On the following page is a picture taken by



Jim Wasserman, and the article that ran with it.



PATRIOTIC BRIDGE - Corunna residents yesterday put the final touches on their painted bridge as Sy Stahl, chairman of the 1974 Independence Day Celebration, added a dash of pride.

"It all started as a joke," said Fairy Christian, secretary of the celebration committee. "We were all sitting around one night and joked about painting the bridge and then we decided to do it."

The bridge, which spans the Penn Central Tracks in this DeKalb Co. Community of 380, is showing off its new coat of red, white and blue paint, complete with white stars. Tuesday afternoon Sy Stahl, chairman of the committee, added a dash of hometown pride to it by spray painting "CORUNNA" on both sides of the wooden plank surface.

Painting the bridge is part of the revival of the town's July 4th celebration. Corunna hasn't had its own holiday festivities since World War II.

No one remembers when the first celebration was held when the village blacksmith used to challenge all attenders to a boxing match. Legend has it that farmers and townspeople used to groom their finest horses and polish their carriages for a parade through the town.

When the horse and buggy gave way to the automobile the annual celebration died. Years later the festival was again taken up in a field south of town.

Thursdays celebration will mark the first time in about 30 years that Corunna has celebrated Independence Day. Two months ago volunteer fireman, Sy Stahl, suggested that the festival be revived and the enthusiasm of the fire department, women's auxiliary and other

residents are bringing the celebration back to Corunna.

"The big idea for the celebration is going back, to the way the last festival was and start all over." With the help of those who remembered the last festival the program was drafted.

It will feature all sorts of old-fashioned events, including a pony pull, chicken bar-b-que, greased pig contest, greased pole, pet parade, bingo and contests for the oldest man, woman and married couple. Events will be held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the park next to Depot Street.

The two 50 foot steel spans of the Corunna railroad bridge have been dressed with five gallons of blue paint and a quart each of red and white paint.

The group had to get permission from the Penn Central Railroad before they could paint the structure. Railroad officials told them they could paint it if they supplied their own materials.

The work began Sunday afternoon and as the word spread, more and more volunteers began to show up. One engineer even stopped his train to get a closer look at the bridge, said Mrs. Christian. She said the painters asked if he approved and smiling, he flashed an OK sign with his fingers from the tracks below.

The workers are proud of their creation. Stahl said the painted bridge and the revival of the Corunna Independence Day Celebration is an attempt to liven up the town.

In its early days, Corunna was a booming railroad community with a bank, two stores, livery stable, roller skating rink and free picture shows in the park, plus many other business.

Most of those businesses have turned into abandoned buildings now and Stahl said that everyone in the town and surrounding area seem "really enthusiastic" about the festival's rebirth. More and More people are getting involved in putting it together and we've seen volunteers from out of town painting, " he added.

Painting the bridge seems to have been a good way to draw attention to the July 4th festival. After all, as helper Mary Wiley put it: "Who ever heard of painting a bridge like this?"

THE 1974 MISS CORUNNA QUEEN CONTEST

During the festival last year, it was decided to have a Miss Corunna to reign over the festival affairs. Only girls that lived in the territory covered by the Corunna Fire Department were invited to attend.

The gals were a little shy of what they would have to do, and we only had eight contestants. They were judged mostly on appearance, poise, personality and just plain good looks. There was no talent although there could very well have been talent with the girls

that competed. Below are the Queen and her court.



Miss Karen Hissong was chosen as Queen with her attendants were Twila Krehl on the left and Janet Aldrich on the right.



These were the contestants for the Queen Contest. From the left: Debbie Christian, Marlene Days, Julia Stevens, Stephanie Christian, Karen Hissong, Twila Krehl, Teresa Wesolowski, and Janet Aldrich.

****

How about that Art? From Beauty Gals to Fire Chief all in one jump!

With Harold Franks playing Santa Claus, Art Drerup was given the AXE! At the December Christmas Party in 1970, firemen from the Corunna Association presented Art with his Chiefs Fireaxe and he also got a little fire truck to play with! Art had served, along with Charley Patterson and Bill Riel, for 18 years on the fire department. Two years later when Charley and Bill retired as 20 year veterans, they were given an engraved Chromed Fire ax, and also a plaque.


Corinna Volunteer

1970 CORUNNA WOMENS AUXILIARY



This is the picture taken at the Christmas Party in 1970 when the Women started the Auxiliary again. In the front row: Linda Stahl, Loretta Davis, Marie Drerup, and Esther Boyd.
Back Row: Bonnie Newcomer, Doris Oliver, Fairy Christian, Mary Wiley, Helen Smith, Ruth Ann Crossley and Mary Cook.

THE CORUNNA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S AUXILIARY

The first meeting of the Corunna Volunteer Fireman's uxiliary was held on Aug. 2, 1961 with 6 members pre- ent. There purpose was to aid the fireman when they ould by serving coffee at the fires and helping to arn money to buy supplies that the firemen needed.

The charter members of the club were Marie Drerup, azel Bowman, Esther Boyd, Zelma Steffe, Imogene McCle- an, Peg Marks, Marilyn Carr, and Betty Smith.

While reading in the minutes of the Womens book, I ound a list of the 16 firemen that were in the Fire epartment in August of 1961. I'll list them here. uane Bowman, Jr., Lyle Baird, Chester Bard, Gerald oyd, Wayne Carr, John Clevenger, Art Drerup, Ed Lowe, ax Lowe, Dallas, McClellan, Charles Patterson, Claude ayton, Jr., Bill Reil, Dick Smith, Leo Steffe, Ray- ond Squire, Garland Treeesh, and Lee Grate.

Most of the money made during the year was serving ood at the Bingo's that the men held.

The last meeting that they held was in June of 1962 hen they decided to quit the club because of dissen- ion in the club.

In April 28, 1970, The Fireman again decided to ask he ladies to start an auxiliary. Fire Chief Art Dre- up acted as chairman until officers were elected. arie Drerup was chosen as President, Pat King, Vice- resident, Bonnie Newcomer, Secretary, Linda Stahl, reasurer.

There were 10 members present at that meeting. Fairy hristian, Ruth Ann Crossley, Marie Drerup, Sandy Hill- er, Betty Jones, Pat King, Bonnie Newcomer, Dorlas liver, Linda Stahl, Mary Wiley.

The Auxiliary are very active in backing up the Fire epartment. They almost always follow their men on a ire-call and usually if they are planning on being here for very long, usually always serve coffee and andwiches to the men. The money for this they usually et by having bake sales, rummage sales, car washes, lus last year they even had a stand at the Auburn Fair.

Money used is spent to help make the fire department ore efficient. They have boughten Rubber boots, coats nd helmets, a pool table, gave them a check for $300 o help on building the tank for the tanker, bought an ir-pack and recesitator plus this year they bought hem a blood pressure kit and stethocope and have spent lose to $500 on the kitchen in the new town hall build- ing.

The president of the Auxiliary in 1975 is Linda Stahl, vice president, Teresa Mosley, Secretary Julie Leins, Treasurer, Rose Ann Allan, Chaplain, Debbie Schluser, nd Welcome Committee, Julia Odem. At present time they

25 members. They are other than the officers already mentioned; Fairy Christian, Mary Lou Cook, Pat Cobbs, Nancy Daffron, Shirley Ely, Jennie DeWitt, Melanie Hartman, Sandy Hillier, Cathy Mc Donald, Betty McDonald, Peggy McDonald, Melody Rowe, Cindy Rottger, Jean Sliger, Reba Sliger, Emma Stevens, Mary Lou Voirol, Mary Willey, Cindy Willey.



This is a picture where the fire station had been located for quite a few years. It is located just as you enter the town from the south, and is where the elections have been held the last several years.

After the gift of the Albrights old grocery store the fireman have been doing a lot of work on the new building, leaving another building in Corunna unocuppied. In the picture below, I don't know whether all the cars will show up or not, but if you went through town and several cars and trucks were lined up out in front of this building, you could be pretty sure that there were a few firemen somewhere around the building.



During the winter months Jay's Building and Roofing, Inc. did quite a bit of work on the inside of the building making a large community room for holding meetings, a police department, a town clerks office, and a kitchen where they can have small dinngers. In the back, most of the work was done by the fire department themselves. They have installed four doors so that each of the firetrucks have their own entrance. At present time they have an American-LaFrance Pumper, A Howe Pumper, a GMC 3000 gallon tanker and a 1500 gallon tanker.

This equipment is used for fire protection in Corunna, Richland Township and the Southern Fairfield Township. At present time they have 32 active members and 3 honorary members. The three Honorary members are Orris Wise, Jack Albright, and Don Jordan. Active members are: Fire Chief, Jay Christian, Assistant Fire Chief, Tom Leins, Secretary Mike Mayberry, Treasurer Robert Sliger, Training Officer, Sy Stahl, Captain, Lynn McDonald, Sargent of Arms, Harry Rottger, and three Lts. John Willey, Mike Odem and Dave Schluser. Other members are: Dave Albright, Fritz Brandenberry, Carl Cobbs, Jim Daffron, Art Drerup,with 22 years service, Dave Ely, Henry Fluke, Joe Harter, Roger Hartman, Steve Jor-

ian, Steve Leins, Leroy Mosley, Glen McDonald, Jim McDonald, Bub Payton, Douglas Nave, Ed Shippy, Keith Sliger, Ken Sliger, Bud (Red) Voirol, and Mike Willey, and Tim Stevens. (Almost forgot you Tim!)



This is the Howe Pumper that they bought new in 1965.



This is the American-LaFrance Pumper that we have.

The men attend monthly meetings to participate in training in the use of the equipment, latest methods of fire fighting, first aid and business of the department. A number of the volunteers attend training sessions with other departments and receive firemen's publications. During Fire Prevention Week in October last year a fire drill was held at the Fairfield Elementary School. Six minutes after the call came in, firemen made the four mile run and were pouring water on the building!



Miss Rhonda Payton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Bub) Payton of Corunna, will represent District 6, in June, at the State Indiana Volunteer Firemen Association to be held at Warsaw.

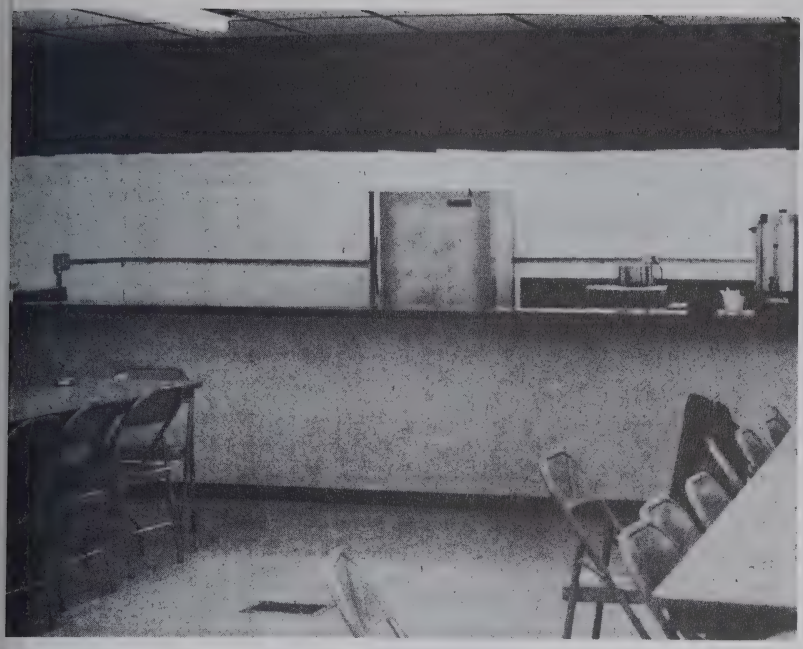
Rhonda was chosen "Miss Flame" on March 20, 1975, at the District contest held at St. Joe Twp. Fire Station. Each fire Department in District 6, well over 30 Firemen Associations, were invited to select a candidate to represent their home Fire Departments.

Each contestant was instructed to write a speech about why they would like to be queen and represent District 6. They were also interviewed and chosen on personality and poise.

At the State IVFA in Warsaw in June, they will meet for two days with the other winners from each of the Districts in Indiana, where the State Miss Flame of Indiana will be chosen. While there, the girls will decorate a float to ride on in the parade.

Rhonda is 16 years old and a Sophomore at DeKalb High School. She is very active in the church and is a member of the Gospel Singers and Quiz team there. At school she is in the German Club, and Pep Club. When she has any spare time, she likes to embroidery.

All the best wishes go with her to the State contest and many of the Corunna Fire Department, men and women both, will be there to back her up and hope that she can bring the title of Miss Indiana Flame, back home to Corunna!



The picture above shows the kitchen facilities and part of the community room that was just recently completed in the New Town Hall at Corunna. To celebrate the projects completion, the fire department will sponsor an open house and auction beginning at 10 a.m. with the proceeds from the auction to be used to offset the remodeling costs on the building and there will be plenty of free refreshments for the public. Miss Corunna of 1974 and Miss Flame will serve as hostesses for the open house.

The town hall building formerly housed the Albright's Supermarket but was donated to the town and the Corunna Fire Department by Jack and Lois Albright.

The project began in mid-February and since then work has included adding floor and ceiling tile, insulation, adding a wall, lowering ceilings, wiring and painting. "We were real forturnate to have men in the fire department who could do all the work that needed to be done," Fire Chief Jay Christian said.

"I can't praise the fireman enough. They've done a swell job." He also praised the Corunna Fire Department Auxiliary, which helped with painting and provided $500 for money for the kitchen facilities.

Outside of the fire station portion of the building, space for a combination cemented basketball, volleyball and tennis court is located. That area was only part of the 60 yards of cement the firemen poured by hand. Materials for remodeling the 2100 square foot front of the building and the 3400 square feet rear portion were provided by the town, and the fire department.



These are just a few of the firemen putting the final touches on laying the 60 yards of cement they figure they laid to make the driveway for the fire trucks. At times there were several men there who worked the entire day and later on when the men who had jobs came home from work, they were usually up their working late into the night.

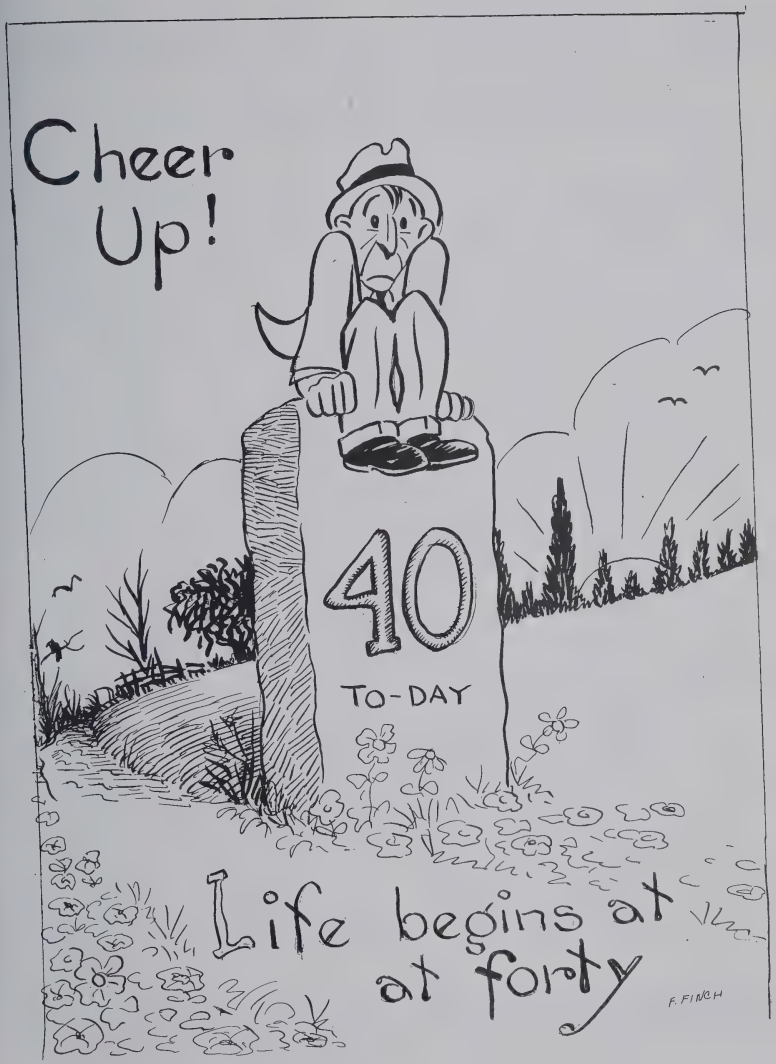
Most of the time, the Women's Auxiliary would take carry in dinners and it was almost like a barn raising, except they were laying cement!

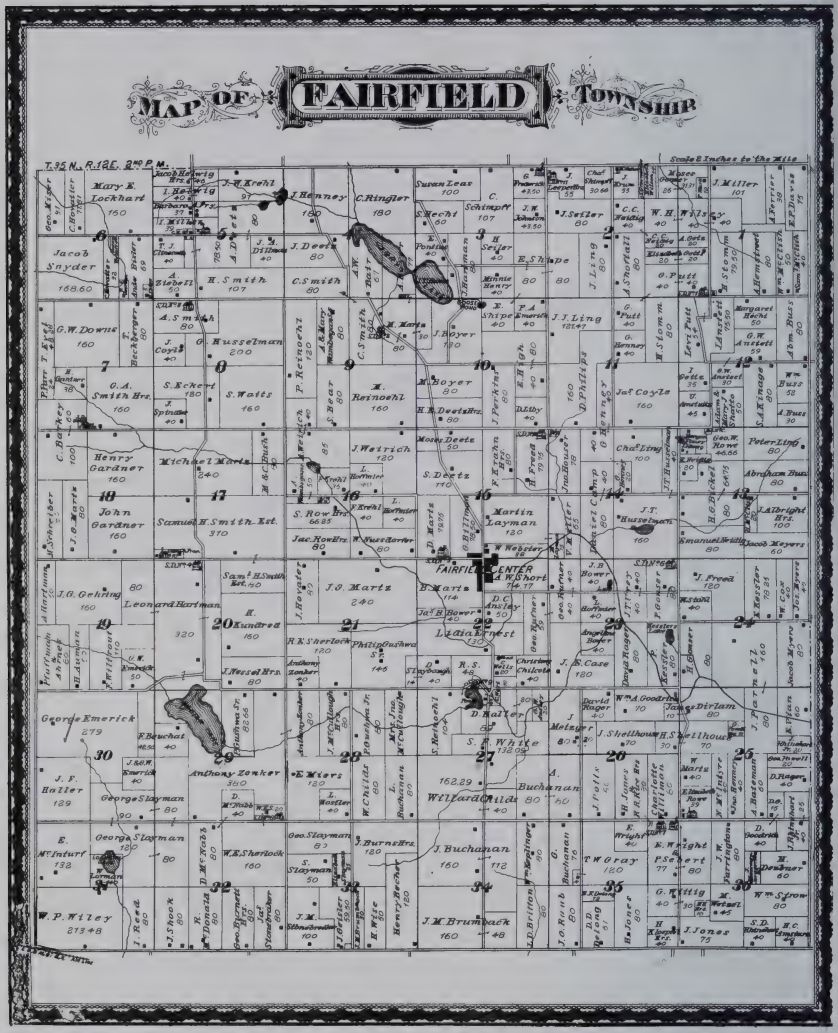
All in all, with waiting for the rain to let up, they worked for about two weeks on it before they got it completed, just in time for the open house in May.

They have already cemented in four basketball posts for the kids to play on and I haven't been through town yet wheb there hasn't been a few kids out there playing ball.

In the bottom picture, the brown building standing used to be an old ice cream store, while the brick house is one of the old landmarks of the town also.




Cheer Up!
40
TO-DAY
Life begins at at forty
F. FINCH


MAP OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP
T.15 N. R.1 E. 2nd P.M.
Scale 2 Inches to the Mile
FAIRFIELD CENTER
Mary E. Lockhart
Jacob Snyder
G.W. Downie
Henry Gardner
Michael Marts
John Gardner
Samuel H. Smith Est.
Leonard Hartman
George Emerick
J.F. Haller
Anthony Zonker
E. Myers
George Slayman
E. McInturf
W.P. Wiley
J.M. Brumback
Willard Smith
Buchanan
Martin Layman
Lydia Ernest
Phillip Oushurg
Peter Ling
Abraham Buss
Jacob Moyers
Emanuel Wolfley
Margaret Hecht
Lewis Ernest
Wm. Buss
Jacob Zonker
Thomas Dirlam
Wm. Strow
J. Jones
G. Kittig
J. Wright
P.S. Ebert
T.W. Gray
E. Wright
J.M. Buchanan
Geo. Slayman
W.E. Sherlock
J. Reed
J. Hook
J. Davis
Geo. Burnett
Jas. Stonebraker
J.M. Shinebarger
J. Forster
E. Wise
Henry Becker
J. Burns Hrs.
J. Buchanan
J.M. Brumback
J.D. Britton
Jo. Rinb
D. Bonner
H. Jones
W. Wetsel
W. Wright
J. Wright
Wm. Strow
H.C. Longbrake
S.D. Blackburn
J.M. Shinebarger
J. Forster
E. Wise
Henry Becker
J. Burns Hrs.
J. Buchanan
J.M. Brumback
J.D. Britton
Jo. Rinb
D. Bonner
H. Jones
W. Wetsel
W. Wright
J. Wright
Wm. Strow
H.C. Longbrake
S.D. Blackburn

"Fair Fields," indeed, are those of the township to which this chapter is devoted. Owing to its situation it was the last township settled in DeKalb County. It lies in the northwestern corner of the county, and contains neither railroad nor town. Its trade is drawn by the village along the line of the Michigan Southern Railroad, which lies on its southern border. Fairfield is bounded on the north by Salem Township, Steuben Co., on the east by Smithfield Township, on the south by Richland, and on the west by Wayne Township, Noble Co.. It is drained by several small creeks, and the outlets of Story Lake, which is on section 3 and 4 and Indian Lake, on Sections 20 and 29.

The surface is somewhat broken, and there are more hills than in most of the townships. Its long slopes, rugged bluffs, deep ravines, winding streams, and limpid lakes present an inviting view to the immigrant, although it was not brought into notice until the other townships were settled, being off the routes of travel, and remote from the county seat.

Fairfield was organized in the spring of 1844, at which time there were but six voters within its limits. Speculators, among whom, for instances, were a Dedrick, who entered 1,100 acres; a Pennsylvania bank, and parties who employed Wesley Park to act as a selling agent for them. Gradually the lands were sold to actual settlers, who now receive a rich tribute from the soil, as is evinced by excellent residences, barns, stock and all the modern appliances of agriculture.

Willard Childs is an example of Fairfield pioneers and farmers. He set out on foot from his home, in Onondaga County, New York, and walked through to Fort Wayne, thence to Kendallville, where there were but two cabins, and, with a guide, came on March 4, 1837, into the county. He selected 120 acres on Section 27, paid for it, and then set to work at Fort Wayne, to earn enough to take him home. When the land was entered, the Storys, five in number and living on the north line of the township, were the sole settlers. Childs returned in October, 1844, to pay taxes and to review his purchase, to determine whether he should make the place his home. The result was satisfactory. Settlers had moved in, and in the southeast was David McNabb and his family. Farther east was Wilbur Powell, and adjoining on the north was the clearing and cabin of George Powell, the Justice of the Peace, and one or two others. In 1846, Childs moved in, and temporarily lodged with Benjamin Chaffee, who later became the Postmaster at Corunna. Chaffee sold to Childs, and moving to the north part of the township, again settled. R. R.Lounsbury, of Wilmington Township, also became a settler in Fairfield. Other early settlers were the Wilseys,

William and Isaac, D. Rager, Esq., Hiram Thomas, Miles Allen, John Shook, and Henry Hartman. Although there were not to exceed eighty acres cleared, and all were occupants of log cabins. Of these families, those of McNabb, Philip Gushwa and Leonard Hartman are sole remaining survivors.



This picture was donated by Mrs. Mildred Myers of Auburn. In the first row are Philip Gushwa, Jr. who was the son of Philip and Mary (Mahr) Gushwa. He was born March 5, 1841, and was only four years of age when his parents moved to DeKalb County. He married Sarah Williams on Sept. 7, 1867. She was the daughter of David and Mary Williams who came to DeKalb Co. in 1864.

In the back row are their children, James Frank, Alva W. and Nellie M. Gushwa. James Frank Gushwa passed away while still quite a young gentlemen.

Alva W. Gushwa married Mildred Pontius and they had one son Robert who died while serving in the Navy.

Nellie Gushwa married Edward Dellanbach and they had four children, Iola, Marie,Orris and Edwin Dellanbach. Iola Dellanbach married Roy Bowers and they have one son Elmer Bowers who lives in Kendallville. Mr. Bowers just recently passed away but his wife Iola still lives in Corunna.

Marie married Charles Roush of Garrett and they had four children. Mrs. Merritt (Bonnie) Ricketts, Mrs. Wayne (Sharon) Rowe, Mrs. Jack (Betty) Smurr and Robert Roush all living in Garrett.

Orris Dellanbach, now deceased, and his wife Bernette lived in Delta, Ohio, and have one daughter Mrs. Larry (Connie) Favorite.

Edwin Dellanbach lives in Toledo, Ohio.

Then the township came to a slow down until around 1850. Those who had held lands for a rise began to sell

them, and clearing and building began in earnest. The tide of immigrants poured in, and soon occupied all the lands. Log rolling and raising, in 1841, took up much of the time, The first frame building was a barn, 24x30 feet in size, on the premises of Mr. Childs. One spring day in the year 1847, thirty men and three boys assembled to put up the beams; by noon of the same day the work was completed, refreshments were served, and the settlers dispersed homeward.

One of the first marriages was that of David Gonser to Miss Gushwa. The first religious organization was a Methodist class, formed by P. Jones, since a resident of Lagrange. A frame Church was erected in 1855; Hiram Thomas was class-leader, and there were a dozen members. The Lutherans also organized at Fairfield Center. The first innovation of the period of log school- houses was 1848, when a frame structure was erected in district 10; Alvin Thompson was its first teacher. The first road was laid out in a northerly direction from Sedan.

Fairfield Center is a hamlet located on the line between sections 15 to 22. It is not destined to any remarkable degree of prosperity, as trade is attracted naturally to Corunna, Waterloo, etc.. Messrs. Merrell, and Hoover were early store-keepers at the Center. Edward Wright, a most respected pioneer, located at this point, built an ashery, and also kept a store.

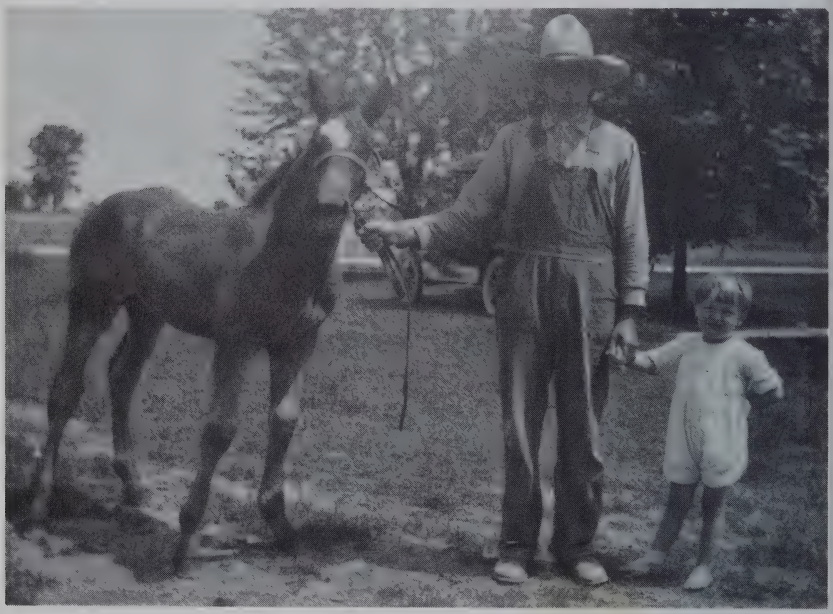
It is said of Henry Hovarter, the pioneer blacksmith that he was hard pressed for food for his family of 8 or 10 children. He worked early and late, in the shop and on the clearing, and finally became independent, living to see his sons comfortably established.

Mr. McNabb entered his tract of eighty acres, and paid for it with money earned by himself and wife. He had $50, she an equal sum, and after paying for their land, they had a half a dollar left. A pole cabin was built and the beginning of a home made.

The census of 1880 gives Fairfield Township a population of 1,558, or 43 to the square mile. The rate of taxation in 1884 was $1.61; Poll tax $1.75; number of acres of land 22,794.09; value of lands, $349,255; value of improvements of personal property, $136,005; total value of taxables, $565,015; number of polls, 233; number of children of school age 547; valuation per capita, $356.19. The township had in 1881, 2,343 acres in corn, producing 70,930 bushels, about 30 bushels to the acre of upland and 40 bushels on bottom lands; 4,036 acres in wheat, producing 20,180 bushels, or 5 bushels per acre; 861 acres in oats, producing 21,525 bushels or 25 bushels per acre; 969 acres in meadow, producing 1,938 tons of hay, at the rate of two tons per acre; 113 acres in potatoes producing 2,260 bushels or 20 bushels per acre.



This is a picture of Earl Husselman and his wife, Delia (Miller), daughter of Henry and Jenora Spindler Miller of Fairfield Township. Although Mr. Husselman was born and raised in Grant Township, I decided to put him under Fairfield since that was where his wife was from. Mr. Husselman has written several stories that I have used in the book so thought it would be appropriate to print an article about him. Until his death, he had been quite active serving as a county Commissioner and served a number of years of the DeKalb Co. Fair Board. He and his wife had three children: Mrs. Martin (Bonnie) Christlieb, Mrs. Robert (Betty) Dilgard, and a son Lloyd who resides just off State road 6 on the



uburn-Ashleyroad (south) the first house on the east side of the road. In the picture on the preceeding page, Earl is holding a young colt while Lloyd looks on. Lloyd has quite a menagerie of animals including all kind of fowl, three deer, and a pair of buffalo who have just had a calf. Lloyd was recently excorted by the sheriff when he took a butchered buffalo to the market to be processed. It weighed in at 900 pounds hung up! The pictures were given by Mrs. Earl Husselman.

BEE TREE TROUBLE SETTLED PEACEFULLY
by H. Earl Husselman

The Storys and Indians Reach Agreement

Fairfield Township lies in the Northwest corner of DeKalb County. It's surface is broken, and probably contains more hills than any other township in the county. This irregularity or variation of bluffs and streams and lakes give it an attractive and picturesque appearance, and in addition, it contains many acres of good rich soil which fell into the hands of honest, thrifty and practical pioneers who laid the foundations for the township's present agricultural wealth.

Fairfield Township was the last of the townships to be organized, probably due to the fact that most all of the land was bought by speculators in an early day and this contributed much to retard actual settlement. Ebenezer Jessep, a native of Connecticut was a land speculator and owned 9,702 acres of DeKalb Co. land and most of this land was in what is now Fairfield Township. A Pennsylvania bank held a large amount of land as well as a bank in Rochester, New York. One man named Detrick owned 1100 acres and other parties held various parcel of land in Fairfield Twp. which were sold through the agency of Wesley Park, the founder of Auburn. Gradually the land came into the possession of immigrants who realized a rich tribute from the soil.

The Story family, natives of Ohio, a father and five sons, were the pioneer settlers of Fairfield Township and they settled along the northern border. The five boys were named Augustus, Frederick, Willard, George and Samuel. Their family name is perpetuated by the name Story Lake. It seems the Storys were not inclined to cultivate the soil very much but spent much of their time in hunting, trapping and fishing. In this they had little trouble in securing the means for sustaining life because there was an abundance of game in the wood and the streams and lakes were filled with fish while the proceeds of the pelts of deer and other wild animal trapped enabled them to secure such supplies as could not be produced at home. The Story's were also in the habit of cutting down bee trees to secure the honey. In this project they met stiff opposition from the Indians; they claimed they found the bee trees first. It

was finally agreed between the Storys and Indians; that when an Indian found a bee tree, an arrow would be shot into it to mark it. And when the Storys found a bee tree, they were to cut a notch in it. This arrangement seemed to be satisfactory to both parties and no serious trouble along that line was reported after that. After the immigrants became quite numerous, the Storys left this part of the country and the last heard of them they were in Minnesota.

Willard Childs was the next early settler in Fairfield Township. He started on foot from his home in New York and walked through to Ft. Wayne, thence to Kendallville where there were but two cabins, and, taking a guide, came into DeKalb County on March 4th, 1837 the day Martin Van Buren was inaugurated President of the United States. Mr. Childs eventually became a prominent citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. William Gonser now own and occupy this farm. In 1854, there were not more than twelve familys living in this unorganized township. One of those was Anthony Zonker who came to DeKalb County in 1845, and a short time became a resident of Fairfield Township. He became quite prosperous and at one time owned more than 500 acres of land in various parts of the township. In 1872, he built a fine brick residence about two miles north of Corunna off State road 327, at a cost of $7000. This residence was the finest in DeKalb County at that time. This farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Orwig of Ashley and is occupied by their son, Victor Orwig and family.

In the early 1850's as a matter of necessity the little hamlet of Fairfield Center was started. Messers. Morrell and Hoover were the pioneer merchants, keeping a general store. Ed Wright another early store keeper, also had a soap factory and tannery and also an ashery and paid 3¢ per bushel for hard wood ashes. It was a welcome enterprise as it was one of the few ways of raising money those days. William Martz was the first shoemaker in the village and his place of business stood where the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Tappan is now. Jessie Davis, another pioneer merchant, had a grocery and dry goods store. Wesley Short owned most of the land around Fairfield Center and he had a general store and a grist mill and a saw mill. He was one of the wealthy and influential citizens of that day. Jacob Stair and Amos Palmer each had blacksmith shops. Walter and Jennie Reynolds ran a cabinet shop and made furniture, and caskets out of walnut timber. Frank Sprankle was a worker in leather and made boots and shoes and harness. William and Charles Webster had a dry goods and grocery store just south of the Huet home. Abe Gonser had a general store. A Mr. Knauer had a grocery and dry goods store and it burned down in 1885 and he

oved to Corunna and started another store there. Chris Luginbuhl was a boot and shoe maker and also manufactured spring scales of a half moon design. He moved to Waterloo in the 1870s and continued to make scales George Wearner had a grocery and dry goods store just north of Mrs. Firestone's home and ran a huckster wagon in the summer. In the summer of 1886, Mr. Wearner paid 5¢ per dozen for eggs, 6¢ a pound for butter, 3¢ per lard, soft white sugar for 3½¢ per pound, raisins six pounds for 25¢. Lion and Arbuckle coffee sold for 8¢ per pound, molasses 20¢ per gallon. Granulated sugar had just come into the market and was considered a luxury and sold for 10¢ per pound.

The medical profession was represented by the following men: Doctors Laymond, Bricker, Rudolph and Merer; the two latter finally located in Corunna. In 1876, Dr. Mercer was elected state senator from his district and proved himself an able legislator. Dr. A. S. Mathews later moved up from Sedan and operated a drug store and also practiced medicine. Dr. Mathews is said to be the last doctor that practiced in Fairfield Center.

Some of the postmasters to serve the little community when there was a postoffice at the center were Walter Reynolds, Cyrus Martin, a Civil War Veteran, A. W. Gardner, George Lipsett, and William Krahn. Fairfield Center, like many other little hamlets, at one time have promise of some importance but its population has dwindled, the post office has long since been discontinued and mail faclities are all rural routes now.

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The following is a reply to a telephone call I made to Steve Hissong, when someone told me that he was working on the history of the Schools in Fairfield Township. Since I didn't seem to be able to find out any information or find any pictures from anyone up in Fairfield Township, I thought he would be the logical person to get in touch with. I didn't give him much time to write an article but I think he did a splendid job. Hwre is his letter:

rs. Sliger: "Here is my article. I hope that you will be able to use it. Each day I find out more about the chools I'm researching. I only wish I would have had ore time to accumulate more information, but I have nly been working on this for 5 weeks. I do have sou eniers from some of the schools and even some pictures. Too late for me to put in the book).

If you need anything more please contact me. I ill be continuing my research and someday hope to do ichland Township. Yours Truly, Steve Hissong, Fifth rade Teacher, Fairfield Elementary.

If any of you people do have pictures and information that would be of interest to Steve, do contact him.

SCHOOL DAYS OF FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP

Dead and gone is the obsolete world of the one-room schoolhouse. Yet it seems to still haunt those who are old enough to recall it. There are not many one-room schoolhouses left, foundations, memories and a few preserved antiquities are all that are left in the last township of DeKalb County to be settled.

Cold chills often ran down my back as many recalled their school days in Fairfield Township. First, I tried to picture each building with teacher, students, "pot-belly" stove and all its usual surroundings. It soon became evident to me that a great number of tiny one-room school buildings were not only adequate, but because of their tininess were most efficient.

Each township of fifty families was required by law to support a simple "reading school." The first school to be built in Fairfield Township was in 1848, only four years after Fairfield was organized as a township. This school, constructed in Section 10, was of a log type and was always referred to as just "Number 10." Alvin Tompkin, a resident of the township, was the first teacher. By 1880, eleven one-room schoolhouses dotted the countryside of Fairfield Township. Some were of the wooden plank type structure, but most were of the well known red brick. Each school and its district were given a number, but many as time went by acquired names, usually that of nearby farmers. Each of these eleven buildings were almost identical in appearance, except for one. Three windows on each side served as most of the light source, with a door on the right-hand corner to the front. Blackboard covered either the remainder of the front wall or the complete back wall. The blackboard was very important because there was no paper to waste. In the middle in its stately position stood the "pot-belly" stove. Well known for toasting those too close and doing little at all for those a short distance away. Each school usually stood in a field at a nearby crossroad, on a slight knoll or in a grove of trees. Each housed the first eight grades.

The reference material in these schools were of "top-notch" quality consisting of a set of encyclopedias, a large dictionary and the well known Reading Circle Books. Reading, writing and "rithmetic were the main studies, though history, geography and health were some times included. What a basis for an education!!

Each school ran on a three term basis. The Fall Term starting in early September, followed by the Winter Term, which was followed by the Spring Term that ended in April. School usually started between 8:30 and 9:00 with the school bell calling the children of the surrounding countryside. School was dismissed between 3:30 and 4:00 in the afternoon. In between,

there were two fifteen minute recesses and a one hour lunch period. Transportation was usually of the "footform" in which most students walked in every kind of weather. Later came the "hack" drawn by horses and later still the Automobile. Double desks were usually the familiar furniture in the room, often carved with initials of parents who had once attended the same school. Water was carried from a nearby farmhouse and retained in an old bucket, glass jug or crock. The teacher had other responsibilities other than just teaching. Some were building the fire, and keeping the building clean.

Now comes a time of recollection of personal experiences of local residents of this township. To me this has been the most exciting and stimulating adventure back in time. We all have experienced school being called off because of inclement weather, but never because of a smelly old skunk put beneath the school by a group of mischievous boys, which happened at S.D. No. 3. My favorite memory was told by a man who attended Shipe School. He told how he and a friend switched the hard boiled eggs from the girls lunch pails to fresh ones. As lunch time came, one of the girls decided to roll the egg between her hands, and SURPRISE!!

Another rather amusing incident which probably frustrated the teacher to no end was when someone would cover the chimney with boards causing the room to fill with smoke. One morning as the teacher was getting the things about for another school day, she reached for the bell rope, but no sound came. She tried again but with no avail. She came to find out that some school boys had turned the bell upside down. Another of the pranks that was quite common happened when someone decided that school was getting rather boring. So that when the teacher's back was turned they would sneak a few buckeyes in the stove. Soon there would be a cracking and popping that would make everybody duck under their desks.

It was not unusual for the floor boards in the schools to have knot holes in them. These holes provided a means of entertainment and once a near tragedy. Some children found that it was great fun to see who could sink the most marbles through the holes. Another little boy decided it was much easier to stuff paper down the knot hole than walk to the trash can. This was a fine system until the next year a tough little kid was playing with matches and was tossing them down the same knot hole. Soon the tell-tale signs of smoke, then flames started to come up through the hole. Through the utter confusion one of the older boys moved the sink and doused the fire with a bucket of water.

By the end of the 19th century, at the height of its glory, the one-room schools of Fairfield Township boasted an enrollment of 515 students. More than the 7 room

centralized school today!

The era of the one-room schoolhouses ended in the early 1930's with it went the social gatherings of the community. Spelling Bees, reciting programs, ice cream socials and community meetings were somehow less exciting and more impersonal until people just lost interest in them. Many of these gatherings are now only memories of a bygone day. Though some may think the teaching poor, the lighting bad and the crowding worst of all, the little red schoolhouse has gone down as an American legend. I feel the one-room schoolhouse did its job well. It is too much a part of America to be forgotten, and its lessons live on in the words of those who learned there as children and grew up to mold our township and county. Written by Steven W. Hissong.

Any of you people that can help steven in any way with pictures or if you know where there was a school located, he said he knows where 11 of them were situated in Fairfield Township, could give Steve a call at his house in Auburn or could call his dad Garl Hissong in Corunna.

This is an article written in the Dec. 1915 Corunna News: EDUCATING THE RURAL DWELLER: The greatness and prosperity of the 50,000,000 people who dwell in small towns and on farms throughout the country depends on what they are able to learn. Deprived as they are of libraries, and close communion of their neighbors and, frequently, adequate schools, the young man of the small town and the farm may grow up totally unable to compete with the man who has had better advantages. For the purpose of educating these people, the government is promoting the organization of the National Rural Teacher's reading circle, the primary object of which is to educate started recently is more worthy of encouragement, as education can only be attained through educators who are properly equipped for their work. The final plans are being worked out by the bureau of education, so that teachers and educators may register at any time. A complete course of reading for teachers has been mapped out, consisting of non-professional books of cultural value, educational classics, general principles and methods of education, rural education and rural life problems.

The reading course is intended to occupy two years, although it may be completed in less time. To those who complete 17 books within two years from the time of registering, will be awarded a National Rural Teacher, reading circle certificate.

The National News Bureau.



This was a picture that was donated by Mrs. Mildred Pontius Gushwa Myers from Auburn. She wasn't just too sure what the car was, and in asking around town if anyone knew what it was, I was finally told that my best bet would be to go and talk to John Martin Smith, from Auburn who is a lawyer and was President of the Historical Museum.

So after a talk with Mr. Smith, he advised me that the man on the car was Mr. W. H. McIntyre from Auburn, and that back in the 1899's, he begin experimenting with Steam engines for on a car. At the time that he was experimenting, he was building carts and buggy's, and if you will look, you can see that the frame of the car does resemble the bottom of a cart or wagon, and that the wheels are of the old wooden type with the metal rims.

The "tiller" is what we now days call a stirring-wheel. Mr. McIntyre is sitting on a box and it looks like a tank is either beside it to put the water for the steam.

Mr. Smith thought it looked like the picture was taken behind the county police station or jail which is where Mr. McIntyre had his business.

The man in the picture with Mr. McIntyre is Samuel Pontius from Fairfield Township. He married Lucy Dahuff and they had four children, Myron L. Pontius, Edna Mae Pontius Rowe, Cora Bell Pontius Gushwa and Elmer B. Pontius. They were the grandchildren of Elijah

and Lydia Pontius who were two of the early settlers in Fairfield Township.



The picture on the right was taken in July 1960 of one of the old settlers in Corunna.

From the left are: Edna Mae Rowe, Ora Rowe Cora Bell Pontius Tappen and Leslie Tappen.

Edna Mae Rowe, died last year at the age of 93. Her husband Ora, is 94 years old and lives with a daughter' Gretchen Rowe Teeters.

Ora just recently fell and broke his hip and had a new socket placed in his hip and within a few weeks was up walking around with the aid of a walker. Hope to see him up and around in time for the festival.

The next women is the mother of Mildred Pontius Gushwa Myers of Auburn. She was Cora Bell Pontius and married Alvin Gushwa and after his death married William Stomm. After his death she married Leslie Tappen who is in the picture next to her. They were all members of the Cedar Lake church of Christ on the Auburn Ashley Road. All of the above except Ora Rowe are deceased.

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Most of you from Corunna or Fairfield Township, will recognize the next picture without a bit of trouble. It was taken at the home of Bill Stonebraker, in Sept. of 1958 just shortly before Bill's parents celebrated their 50 Wedding anniversary. In the front are Jesse and Lemo (Conrad) Stonebraker. In the back are their sons and their wives. Itha and Bonnie (Rinard) Stonebraker and Gladys (Snyder) and Willard (Bill) Stonebraker.

The house that Bill and Gladys live in now, was built by his grandfather James Stonebraker after the original house was destroyed by fire in 1881. It was built the the summer of 1882 and Jesse was born in the house that James Built.

Itha and Bonnie Stonebraker for years operated the

Corunna Hardware Store. They had three children: James, Mrs. Robert (Maxine) Lietch, and Ned Stonebraker. When Mr. Stonebraker retired, he had managed the Hardware store for 26 years.

Gladys and Bill also had three children: Johnny, Billy, and Mrs. Jack (Donna Sue)Stock. Bill is Trustee of Fairfield Township and quite a large size farmer.

He's also quite a fisherman! Or so he likes to tell! Well here's proof that this one didn't get away!



Back in June 14, 1960, Bill's hired hand was plowing for corn in muck ground just one-half mile east of the corner of State 327 and U.S. 6 where Albrights are located.

After he got stock, he walked home to get Bill to pull him out. It started to rain, so Bill decided to wait until tomorrow to go down and get it out, but you know how these weathermen are around here! It rained for three straight days and by the time it quit, they had 5 and 6/10 inches of rain.

Bill said after it quit raining they went down to pull out the tractor with a long cable and two tractors. They used their flat boat to take the cable out to hook onto the tractor. Bills son got the honors of driving the tractor out and wasn't even able to sit on the seat because the water was up that high.

By the time they got the tractor out, Bill said the spectators were lined up clear back up to the corner on State Road 6. Bill said that it took us quite a while to get the tractor working again, but we've still got the tractor today.

Can't beat that for a fish story now, can you? That is unless you've left your tractor out in a field in the last few days with all the rain we've hand this last week in May.

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On the next page you will find a picture of an old type binders that was taken out west but that were used around here. Bill Stonebraker donated the picture.

The binders were drawn by horses and the binder would cut the sheat and tie it into bundles that would then drop on the ground. Then someone would walk around the field and put about 10 to 12 bundles into shocks so the wheat would dry out.

When the wheat was dried out, it was time to do the threshing. We have a threshing picture up front in the book, so you already know what that looks like.

I'm not telling how old I am, but I can still remem-

ber when I was about 6 or 7, the man that threshed in our township was Bill Wappes. They usually all got together in groups and each farmer helped on each farm so that there weren't labor bills to pay out. You usually worked out your pay at their farm and they worked out their pay on your farm. Their was usually quite a crew and was a very exciting day when it came your turn to have the gang. That is until I got old enough that I had to stay in the house and help in the kitchen!

Bill had a son George, who was the same age as myself and since we were rather close neighbors, knew each other quite well. Never will forget the time when George and myself decided we'd be real good, and take an empty wagon back to the field for the men to pitch the bundles of wheat on. We started up real good but somewhere between the barn and the field, the horses decided that they didn't want to go where George wanted them to go! We ended up all the way across the 16 acre field at a full gallop hanging on for dear life. If you think fields are rough now, you ought to have been with us then! Not only that, when the men finally came up to retrive the horses, we both got the spanking of our lives and it was several days before I sat down without a pillow! It was still fun, and I'd love to try it again some day. Maybe I could keep the horses from running away this time.

Used to be scared to death to load up the shocks on the wagons. Never failed to see at least one or two field mice and sometimes even a snake or two! Oh for the good old days.



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On the next page, you will find a picture of the Daniel Stomm Family of Fairfield Township. Mr. Stomm was married to Nancy Elizabeth Urey and she became the mother of two sons, Voyde and Roy. She died in 1891 and Mr. Stomm married Mary Margeret Burger in 1894.



They became the parents of Ralph, Ruth and Emma Stomm In the previous picture of the log cabin where they lived till they built their present home on the farm that they called Vistawald in 1915. Identified above are Daniel Stomm, Voyde, Ruth, Ralph, Emma and Roy and his wife Mary.

The barn in the background was destroyed by lightning in a storm in which six other barns were burned in the same neighborhood. Ironic as it may sound, the barn that was built to replace the one in the picture burnt to the ground last summer. The Corunna Fire Dept. plus several other fire departments were on the scene and were able to save a brand new milk house that was only a few feet from the barn. There were a few small caves that died in the fire but nothing else was burnt.

In talking to Ralph amd his wife Theresa Hanes, who live in Vistawald, they told me that the house or at least one section of it was moved to a new location on the homestead and is still is use today.

Ralph and his wife live on the old Daniel Stomm farm and although Mr. Stomm is retired he is still quite active as is his wife. I got a big kick out of listing to Ralph tell me how lucky his wife is when they went out to Reno a while back! He said he would only let his wife play the penny machines, as she never was a gambling woman! Anyway he said he gave her a dollar's worth of pennies, and she fed the slot machine like a true gambler, and eventually she did win one jackpot which was $6.00. And from their on, she told the story. "I should have quit right there and went back to the hotel." "All I did, was put that money back in the machine and so altogher I lost $7.00 and that's more than my limit."

They live on a hill top building site in a stucco house with full basement story, modern heating, electric lighting and if they haven't done any improvement since Daniel Stomm lived there, the water was being forced into the house by hydraulic ram from a spring that supplies sufficient water for all domestic purposes and for the live stock as well. Winter or summer there is no water to pump and a stream down the hillside from the fountain, encased in cement, has a continuous and bounteous supply. That above was when Dan lived there and I thought it was quite interesting.

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In the next picture, you will see a barn that was being raised on the John Bickel Farm just east of the Walph Stomm farm. It was taken in 1895 and Ralph said he was there but doesn't remember too much about it as he was just a baby at the time; but in the book written by Myron Pontius, there was an article written on how the old barns were raised so thought I would put that

information in next.

"Eighty-three years ago, which would have been in 1880, the old log barns were rapidly being replaced by large frame barns; a few of them were bank barns. Many of the frame barns were very large, as more livestock and larger crops were raised. Often these barns were from fifty-five to eighty feet long and proportionately wide and high. Livestock were kept in the lower portion of the barn with hay and grain in the mows above. At harvest time the sheaves of wheat were stored in the barn to be threshed later.

The raising of the frame work of the barn, commonly called a barnraising, was a community event which drew large crowds of men and women. Long before that day carpenters were busy with the axe and adze and many other tools shaping the large sills, beams, in fact every part of the frame of the large barn preparing for "that day."

They were under the command of a very competent and experienced leader. Upon the barn raising day many neighbors were present to aid the workmen, all under the direction of the leader who had great responsibility. Upon this long looked for day, all who were working were assured of two things. First a big meal at noon. Second a large group of spectators. The heavy sills were easily placed upon the foundation of stone masonry. Experienced men used pike poles in raising the large portions of the frame work for the barn. These pike poles were long round straight pieces of carefully selected hickory wood. In the small end of the pike pole there was a rod of iron with a sharp point extended several inches from the end of the pole. The top of the pole with the point of iron was supported by a very strong iron band.

As the heavy beams, etc., were lifted from the ground and at the command of the leader, the workmen sent the points of the pike poles into the wood, and at the command of the leader, as they lifted and pushed, he would cry loudly, HE-O-HE, and this cry was heard very often until the large beam was in place in the framework of the barn. All heavier parts of the barn were raised in this way.

There was present among the on-lookers a minister. Someone said "Parson, you may get ideas here for your church work." The minister smiled and said, "Yes, but I would have to change that cry "HE-O-HE" to "SHE-O-SHE". He waited quietly until some curious by-stander asked, "What do you mean?" His laconic reply was this, "In my church work, it would be necessary for me to cry "SHE-O-SHE". Evidently the men didn't got to church as well as the women did!

By the way, there are 85 people in the picture ofthe barn. See the pair fist-fighting in the middle of the picture?

REV. MYRON L. PONTIUS



Myron L. Pontius, the subject on this page, was the son of Samuel and Lucy Dahuff Pontius and the grandson of Elijah and Lydia Pontius who were two of DeKalb County Pioneers.

Myron and his wife Mary Adelaide Pontius had three children. Lucy marguerite who died at the age of 19 in March of 1926. She died at Jacksonville, Illinois, and was supposed to have become ill from inhaling fumes in a science experiment she was conducting at the high school there. Another son Yale Pontius just died in 1974 at the home of a cousin Mrs. Mildred Myers while he was visiting there. The only living son is Henson Pontius who lives in Peoria, Illinois, and gave me permission to use the book "The Small Towns of Yesterday."

Mr. Pontius was a graduate of Yale Divinity School; Past district Governor of Rotary International; Honorary Alumnus of Illinois College. Closing a Ministry of nearly three decades with Central Christian Church, at Jacksonville, Illinois, he retired to the scene of his nativity in Northeastern Indiana. He has served many churches, schools, clubs, etc. in the Tri-State area.

A native of Fairfield Township, he came out of retirement to serve as interim pastor of Plymouth Congreagational Church from 1944 to 1946. He died at the age of 86.

He is the author of several books. They are: "The World;s tomorrow;" "When Sorrow Comes;" " The Resur-

rection of the Unknown Soldier;" "Pathways to Comfort:" and "The Small Town of Yesterday."

THE SMALL TOWN OF YESTERDAY
by
MYRON L. PONTIUS

The information taken from this section of the book was copied from a book written by a man that was raised in Fairfield Township, and who though now deceased, I was given permission by his son, to use the book for this book. It is very interesting and since there are not to many books around, I will print it almost in its entirety. It was copyrighted in 1963. Please remember that this book was written when Mr. Pontius was in his 80's but that the book was written from his memory when he was only a small lad. So see it written as if he were still that small lad, and it is very interesting reading.

DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY
TO
ELIJAH AND LYDIA PONTIUS
TWO DEKALB COUNTY PIONEERS
AND
MY GRANDPARENTS

PREFACE

This is the first in a series of five books upon the general subject, Our Yesterdays. It is a brief history based upon that which the author has seen and heard and experienced in this small town until that time when he left to enter College. That remembered goodness which he called mother rehearsed much of the earliest history until the facts were placed indelibly upon the tablets of his memory. In this small town there was the only home he knew until he established a home of his own.

In 1880 this village was a type of thousands of small centers of population playing such an important part in the development of that which we call, "Our American Way of Life." The few small towns that remain are often called ghost towns because they are rapidly vanishing memories. The author has discovered that there is comparatively little written upon The Small Town of Yesterday. And often that which has been written is inaccurate and incomplete. The writer believes you may be interested in these facts concerning a pioneer village in North-eastern Indiana, with an interesting history, and a marvelous influence upon the civilization which it helped to create in the Central West of our own United States.

This book could be called, A Sacred Memory. Memory is one of the most important faculties of a normal human being, and it is one of the most neglected. It may be

tive and satisfying to the individual, and interesting and helpful to his friends, or through carelessness disease it may recede. If one loses his memory completely, oblivion will claim him for its own. A teacher I can never forget said, "You should be ashamed to carry your New Testament in your hands, carry it in your memory." Then he added, "God gave us memories so that we might have roses in December."

INTRODUCTORY

The author revived the memory of this small town of his boyhood when he became aware of the fact that he is one of the very few who can recall these details of this small town as it was eighty-three years ago.

During the pioneer years these small centers of population were called Settlements. When Abraham Lincoln was a young man, he walked from Springfield, Illinois, to Menard County, a distance of twenty-one miles, to take that his home in the Settlement known as New Salem. As our country began to push its frontiers westward very slowly, the Settlement became the Small Town or the Village of our yesterdays.

It is interesting to record the fact that in 1880, the vast majority of our ministers and Missionaries came from small towns or the thinly settled countryside. For many generations our great men in the development of industry, finance, education, politics, etc, came from the country and the small towns in the east and centralwest.

The writer has spent much time and effort in gathering facts about the small towns of northern Indiana, and in verifying that which he recalls or has been told, and by talking with descendants of those who were the early settlers of this small town.

With very careful and persistent efforts in procuring all facts about this small town that are available, there may be other valuable data which is buried in the irrevocable past. You may be assured that which is here recorded is based upon indisputable history.

CONDENSED FACTS

Here Mr. Pontius has gotten together a lot of information that I have already printed elsewhere in this book so that that is a repeat, I will drop out, and only put in what I have not already printed previously.

In 1848, the first frame school house was built in Fairfield Township at Fairfield Center. It was poorly constructed and crudely furnished. The benches were built against the wall. In 1877 lightening struck this building not long after the pupils had been dismissed for the day. After the disaster it was not used as a school house. The red brick school house at Fairfield Center was erected in 1879. It was sold and torn down in the late thirties of the twentieth century.

The early settlers of Fairfield Township were sturdy and worthy pioneers. Many of these brave men and women came from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. They realized the possibilities of these Fair Fields, as well as the hardships to be endured; the regorous climate, the chills and ague, and what they discovered was even worse, the heavy forests, and the trees which had to be cut down and burned.

In 1880, Fairfield Center reached its height in business, industry and in population. It was considered an unusual village of diversified industrial activity. At that time the population was not more than onehunded and twenty five, including children. In 1880, an improved farm in Fairfield Township,a population of one thousand five hundred and Fifty Eight, according to the United States census of 1880, sold for fifteen dollars per acre. Ten years later this farm had doubled in value. In this township corn averaged forty bushels per acre.

Nearly all I have written centers around the year1880. That year was but thirty six years after Fairfield Township a organized.

The three small towns, Fairfield Center, Custer, and Salem Center to which a mail carrier brought mail each week day for many years, have passed out of existence so far as business is concerned. One man living not far from the site of that which was called Custer told me, "I never heard of the burg." Salem Center and Fairfield Center today present no evidence there were once small towns of considerable influence and importance in social and business activities.

Eighty=three years ago in Fairfield Center there were: The Post Office, The Cabinet Shop, the large General Store, A grocery, A drug Store, A part Time Barbershop, A Coffin Factory, a Boot and Shoe Repair Shop, The Webster Tavern or Hotel, A flour Mill, a Saw Mill, A Shingle Mill, Three Physicians, A justice of the Peace, a School teacher and a school of forty pupils, A Minister and a Church with approximately one hundred members.

Tradition persists that in 1880 there was in Fairfield Center a Cooperage Plant. This may be true. Hosever I discovered no convincing facts that would justify me including it in the above paragraph.

In Fairfield Center eighty-three years ago in the late springtime one could see women going out into the country to gather carefully green stalks of rye. These were placed in the watering through where the horse and cow drank. After they were bleached these were removed with great care and while wet were braided as the women braided their hair, using several stalks at a time. While quite moist these braids were sewed together and cleverly woven into hats for the family. My Grandmother made a straw hat for me which I wore with great pride, because she made it and it was a perfect "Fit."

FAIRFIELD CENTER IN 1880

Fairfield Center, Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, ndiana, was a small town of no inconsiderable import- nce in business, industry and even in education and eligion. Let us procure a work picture of this town s it was about eighty-three years ago. The purpose is o identify every home and business in this small town nd give the name of at least one person in each home' n most instances the head of the household or business.

Upon the Western boundary of the village, we find the he room brick school house. It was more than the pub- ic school house of the town and township. The school ouse was a community center, and many different pro- rams were presented there. Upon election day the voters f Fairfield Township assembled in the school yard. They ame early and remained outside of the building until he trustee of the Township opened the door and in a oud voice repeated these words, "Yes! Yes! The polls re open!" Then the men entered the school house and oted for their favorite candidates. The modern system f voting privately was unknown at that time.

In our imaginary journey through this small town let s notice that a short distance east from the school ouse, the home of Benjamin Martz. It is still owned y the Martz family today. Returning to the north side f the road and continuin east a few rods there was a arge white frame semi=gothic building, the home of the utheran Church. Continuing east upon north side of he highway there was a large dwelling, the home of Dr. aron B. Matthews. He was known to every citizen in airfield Township because he received the "astonishing" ension of Thirty Dollars per month. East of the home f Dr. Matthews and upon his lot, there was a small usiness building in which he operated a Drug Store.

Continuing east a few rods and upon the south side f the highway, there was a two story, frame, unpainted ouse, the home of Andrew Camp. Returning to the north ide of this road running east and west, and several ods east from the Drug Store, there were a number of uildings including a large barn, beyond the barn six r eight rods east there was a large house, the home f the Websters who operated a Tavern or Hotel. Other ooms of the Hotel (one Room each,) extended north from he home of the Websters. In 1880 many a traveling man r a transient found board and lodging there.

Let us keep in mind that so far as Fairfield Center s concerned there are two highways. The one coming rom the west and passing the school house ended as it ntered the main highway through the town of Fairfield enter. Extending north and south. Upon the North- estern corner of the intersecting highways was the ebster Hotel!

. As we move south across the road (from the west,)

and upon the south=western corner of the intersecting highways, there was a large two story frame building painted white. This was the home of the General Store owned and operated by J. H. Knauer who lived in Corunna, four miles south of Fairfield Center. This store carried a large stock of dry goods, hardware and groceries. When weather and road conditions permitted, a huckster from the store drove two large horses hitched to a heavy wagon which carried a "minature store" into the farming area surrounding the village. He exchanged his goods for farm produce (eggs, poultry, butter, etc,) as he called at each farm home. Early in the eighties this store building burned at night, a total loss. At that time the store was managed by Harve Knauer, son of the owner. The writer with his mother was present as the building burned.

In our journey, we now move south from the store upon the west side of the main "street" of the small town. South of the Knauer Store, there was beautiful white gabled house the home of Aunt Betsey and her aged sister. Few young people in 1880 knew the surname of Aunt Betsey but all respected and loved her. I hesitate to mention this for it may not be correct; but somehow I think the surname of Aunt Betsey was Exhert.

South of the home of Aunt Betsey there was a large unpainted house the home of Thomas Elsen. South of the Elson home there was a long frame business building where George Weamer operated a grocery. South of this grocery there was a two story white house the home of Cyrus Martin. In 1884, Mr. Martin became the village postmaster, serving many years. In 1880 the United States Mail was brought each weekday to Fairfield Center, from Corunna. After leaving the mail, the carrier continued his journey about four miles north to Custer. Leaving the mail there he continued north to Salem Center in Steuben County.

Salem Center was the end of his route. The mail carrier used a larhe buggy usually drawn by two "western ponies," and he seldom missed a trip regardless as to weather or road conditions. After leaving and receiving mail at Salem Center he drove south to Custer, then on to Fairfield Center leaving and receiving mail at each place. Then he felt he had ended his labors for the day and drove more slowly to Corunna. Often it was late in the afternoon when he reached our village. There was no rural mail delivery for Fairfield Center until after the turn of the century.

South of the home of Mr. Martin there was a large square frame house, the home of Mose Lower who worked at the saw mill. Continuing south about ten rods and across the "hollow" and over a small stream flowing east, upon a hill there was a large white house the home of Mrs. Chasey and Her daughter, Mrs.

Beck and her grandson George Beck. Upon the lot south of the home of Mrs. Chasey there was a large well cared for house, the home of Dr. O.F. Rudolph. The Doctor had his office in a one story building (gabled), adjacent to his home. His office was upon the north-east corner of his lot, facing west.

Dr. Rudolph frequently talked with the writer, who as a boy did odd jobs for him in the office and caring for his horse in the stable. While the Doctor was a native born citizen his antecedents were born and lived in Germany. His education was limited. He attended the public school for eight years. He had never seen a Medical College. He had no license to practice medicine; he needed none! He had come to Fairfield Center from Ohio in the late seventies. Before leaving Ohio he spent several weeks in a Doctor's office, watching him carefully as he greeted his patients, examined them and prepared their medicine. He learned to take the pulse count and read the "fever" thermometer. He said he made note of the medicine the Doctor was giving his patients and bought a quantity before coming to Indiana.

At his home in Fairfield Center he hung up his sign, Dr. O.F. Rudolph, Physician and Surgeon! He told me his first patient was a Mr. Deetz who lived in the country. He had been ill for a number of years. Doctors had declared Mr. Deetz could not get well! The family told Dr. Rudolph Mr. Deetz would soon die! The patient told him his days were numbered, but he wanted to see the new Doctor. Dr. Rudolph told me he gave the patient what was supposedly a careful and thorough examination. Then he told Mr. Deetz he could cure him. A very risky promise! The Dr. gave the patient a big dose of Epsom Salts. When he returned he went through with the examination again, if possible more carefully, and then he gave a smaller dose of Epsom Salts and this procedure was followed for several visits. Finally he began to give the patient calomel, also huge doses of quinine, and the patient got well! The Doctor said. "Then my success as a physician was assured. Had Mr. Deetz died while I was treating him I would have moved."

South of the home of Dr. Rudolph there was a frame, unpainted house with five rooms, the home of Samuel E. Pontius. About twenty rods south of the home of Mr. Pontius, there was the southern boundary of Fairfield Center. There upon a small farm of twenty acres were two houses both frame, one small, the other a two story structure, the home of James B. Bower. Across the highway upon the east side there was a large frame white house the home of David Ansley. They had an adopted son Walter Davidson Ansley.

North of the Ansley home, upon the east side of

the main road through Fairfield Center, there was a road from the east which ended at the main highway. Had it continued it would have entered the lot owned by Mr. Pontius. This road from the east is mentioned because about one mile east upon a large hill was the home of one of the pioneers of Fairfield Township, John T. Urey. A son Samuel C. Urey was a successful school teacher. Samuel Urey married Miss Cora Reinoehl. Among the children born to them was Harold C. Urey who became a great scientist. Dr. Harold C. Urey discovered Heavy Water and because of this discovery and his scientific achievements he received the Nobel Prize. Now retired, he resides in California and continues an abiding interest in, and an unusual love for, everything that is scientific in our world and in the universe. He was born in Walkerton, Indiana, where his father was teaching school. However, his father and mother were natives of Fairfield Township, and considered that their home until they moved to southern California. Dr. Harold C. Urey as a boy attended the public school in Fairfield Township, not far from Fairfield Center.

In 1886 Samuel C. Urey taught the public school, a special session, at Pleasant Hill one mile south of Fairfield Center. I attended the term he taught there. One summer afternoon something very unusual occurred during the school hours. There was a strange noise and the windows rattled in the little one room frame school house. The teacher knowing we were frightened assured us that the noise was probably caused by some farmer driving a heavy wagon on a hill near the school house. Later the truth was revealed. The noise was caused by a slight tremor from the earthquake at Charleston, South Carolina!

In a special file of letters addressed to me by a few great men, there is one from Dr. Harold C. Urey. In this letter he indicates that one day he and his brother were sent from the Urey home to Fairfield Center on an errand. As they approached the village a sudden storm overtook them and they sought shelter in the home of Samuel Pontius. It was not long before their mother, Mrs. Cora Reinoehl Urey came for them, with a horse and buggy. Dr. Harold C. Urey wrote, "She came to the rescue from the demon storm."

"How is Heavy Water used and why is it of such great importance to scientists?" "Or of what value is Heavy Water to science?" These questions have been asked by those who have heard me mention this remarkable discovery by Dr. Urey. While my knowledge of science is very limited I shall endeavor to present a partial answer. The Scientific name for Heavy Water is Deuterium, a stable isotope of hydrogen used in the hydrogen bomb, in the process of nuclear reaction. It is also called heavy hydrogen, quite naturally, and has a weight of

atomic 2 or 3. It is my understanding that the discovery by Dr. Urey has many other uses valuable to science. Dr. Harold C. Urey is easily one of the truly great men born and reared in northern Indiana. In grateful recognition of him, a bronze tablet should be placed in Fairfield Township. The logical place for such a plaque is Fairfield Center, the CENTER of Fairfield Township.

North of the road made famous by the Urey family and upon the east side of the highway running through Fairfield Center, there was a large apple orchard known to every youngster in the village. North of the orchard there were many farm buildings including large barns where James B. Bower kept his horses and mules and oxen, wagons and bob-sleds, etc. North of these farm buildings there was a large mill yard. In the south-eastern portion of the mill yard there were large piles of newly sawed native lumber, piled very carefully, awainting buyers sure to come. In 1880 about one-third of the original forests remained in the north-eastern part of Indiana.

North of the mill yard there was a large well equipped sawmill owned and operated by James B. Bower. Eighty three years ago there were hundreds of large logs brought to the mill yard each season. This sawmill was one of the largest in northern Indiana, and it was in operation the greater portion of the year. Mr. Bower was an expert sawyer. When very large logs were brought which could not be sawed with the number one circular saw, another saw just above it was used. These saws were set so accurately that the large board or plank did not reveal clearly where one saw joined the other in the sawing process. I think these saws moved in opposite directions. Logs of more than four feet in diameter could be sawed easily. The older citizens declared there had never been an accident in the operation of the sawmill and it had been in constant use for many years!

However, one evening when the mill had shut down for the day there were in the sawmill but two men, Charles Martin the fireman and James B. Bower. The boiler and engine providing power for the mill were down stairs. The sawmill was built over a small valley. The sawmill was on the upper floor. That evening Mr. Bower was busy upstairs sitting upon a stool and leaning over the big saw sharpening the large teeth, Mr. Martin, not knowing that Mr. Bower was working over the saw, turned on the steam power and the large saw began to move as if cutting a log! Mr. Bower realizing that he was but a few seconds from certain death became frightened and yelled loudly to Mr. Martin who could not hear him. Fortunately a few seconds before the steam was released he had turned away from the saw teeth, but was still sitting upon the stool! He was uninjured. When he became somewhat composed he went down stairs and what he

he told Mr. Martin I cannont write, for he did not get those words from the Sunday School Quarterly! I witnessed the near accident. When all was over I became sick and Mr. Bower had to take me home, as he said to himself but loudly enough for me to hear, "Little boys should stay at home."

When this sawmill was in normal operation, in addition to ordinary lumber, there was produced quarter-sawed white and red oak lumber, shingles, lath, etc. Many men were employed by Mr. Bowers. Large trees were cut down in the forests and they had to be measured for logs of commercial value, than the logs were transported to the sawmill, often a considerable distance, on wagons or bobsleds. More that a dozen men were employed in the sawmill. They used the sturdy flat car on iron rails and with "cant" hooks moved the logs on the car and into the saw mill. Inside the mill men were at work sawing slabs into stove wood lengths, sawing shingles and lath. "Off bearing" often required two men. Also several men to assort new lumber and place it properly in the temporary yard just north of the sawmill. If it was custom work it had to be marked so the owner could remove it quickly from the small yard. If the lumber belonged to Mr. Bower, it had to be hauled to the lumber yard south-east of the sawmill and it required experienced men to pile green lumber awaiting a buyer. At the period of which I am writing, this industry meant much to Fairfield Center and the entire community.

North of the sawmill and the space where newly cut lumber was placed temporarily (much custom sawing was done by Mr. Bower,) there was a one and one-half story building, frame and painted white. This building was the home of the Fairfield Center Flour Mill, where they processed wheat, corn and buckwheat into flour. Much of this flour was packed in kegs and barrels made of native wood (there were no paper sacks and few fabric sacks in 1880 in Fairfield Center), and taken by drays to many portions of Northern Indiana. Often quantities of his high quality flour were taken to Corunna to be shipped to other markets.

Because there were no railway facilities at Fairfield Center, early in the eighties, James B. Bower and Alfred Weirich moved this flour mill, building and machinery, to Waterloo, Indiana, where there were railroad accommodations adequate for their needs. This left an undesirable vacancy in the industrial life of the small town. However the venture proved to be unprofitable and it was not long before Mr. Bower moved his family back to the home up9n the southern boundary of Fairfield Center. With renewed determination, he then gave his attention to the sawmill.

Eighty-three years ago north of the flour mill and upon the top of a hill, there was a large well built

white house the home of Dr. Henry Lehman. This was the largest and most beautiful home in Fairfield Center. North of the home of Dr. Lehman there was a small one and one half story frame house, the home of Stephen Sprinkle, Sr. In a small but nice appearing business building of one story, facing the highway (in fact very near the highway), there was the home of the Boot and shoe Repair Shop of Mr. Sprinkle. He was more than an ordinary workman; he made to order fine boots and shoes and acquired an enviable reputation because of his remarkable skill.

North of the repair shop of Mr. Sprinkle there was in 1880 a two story frame building, the home of Jeromd Reynolds, known to his fellow=townsmen as "Jerry." He had served as apprenticeship and was a very good cabinet maker. His products, often made to order, were used in many a home in Fairfield Township and beyond these limits.

Jerome Reynolds was a skilled workman, widely known and deservedly popular. He was postmaster at Fairfield Center for a quarter of a century, or until the time of his death in 1884.

Mr. Reynolds had a keen sense of humor. He is remembered by living descendants who have historic evidence concerning many things which he did. Among them there was the fact that he had a peculiar habit in shaving. The writer, a boy under school age, saw him sitting upon the floor of the living room in his home like a tailor, excepting when he was sharpening his razor. He sat upon the floor near the stove with his back against the wall. He had some kind of a contraption which he fastened to the toe of his large boot. In this invention there was a hook into which he fastened his razor strop. When he sharpened his razor the speed made me dizzy. He moistened a large shaving brush, and as there was soap in the shaving mug, he soon had a generous supply of creamy lather. When he lathered his face I could not tell who or what he was. Then he took his large straight edge razor and shaved his face smoothly, without a nick and without a mirror!

North of the home of Mr. Reynolds there was a lane extending east about twenty rods from the main highway in Fairfield Center. Upon the north side of this lane, about ten rods from the highway, there was the Fairfield Center Cemetery. The natives called it a graveyard. It was the property of Fairfield Township and the grave lots were free to any resident of the township. There was no sexton. Neighbors opened and closed the grave.

Eighty-three years ago no one dreamed that someone might write an article for an American magazine entitled "The High Cost of Dying." In 1880 the average expense of a burial service including the coffin and the services of an undertaker was not more than twenty-five dollars. This statement is correct. My father died in November 1890. Mr. Shafstall, an undertaker in Hudson,

Indiana, was called and he took care of my father's body in our home. The day of the funeral service the undertaker returned with a coffin and remained until the body had been interred. The total cost was thirty dollars!

In 1880 upon the south-east corner of the old graveyard, and across the lane, on the south side, there was a large dwelling, a two story building, the home of John Stair, at that time pronounced as it it was spelled Stairs. West of the home of Mr. Stair about a half dozen rods there was a large one story gabled building facing the land. This was the village blacksmith shop, but John Stair was more than a blacksmith. He was a trained mechanic and understood the art of tempering metals. He repaired buggies, wagons and farm machinery; he made horse shoes and horse shoe mails. Mr. Stair shod horses, mules and oxen. He was a quiet and a very unusual man. No one ever accused him of becoming angry or using offensive language. If the occasion really demanded it, he could use words of more than one syllable! Mr. Stair told me when he was not busy (many a day he worked twelve hours), he made wrought nails! These were in common use eighty-three years ago. School children came to his shop to see Mr. Stair work at the forge and the anvil. Strange as it may seem to the reader, the children enjoyed the odor of burning soft coal.

Often they repeated for their friend, the poem entitled, "The Village Blacksmith."

Friends have requested me to present the names of several persons in Fairfield Center in 1880 who might have been First Citizens, according to my memory and judgment. I am naming four men and in this order: Jerome Reynolds, James B. Bower, Dr. O. F. Rudolph, and John Stair.

Helen Cook and I were talking up at the post-office one day, and she was telling me she was related to Mr. Bower from Fairfield Center. James Bower was supposed to have had a son John Bower, who had a daughter by the name of Mertie Bower. Mertie married David Shook, and they had Angela Shook, who married Lloyd Mason and had Helen. So she is related to Fairfield Center on her mothers side and if you look on her fathers side, she had ancestors on her fathers side in Richland Township. Just ask her sometime when you're up at the post office sometimes.

You people who aren't interested in Genealogy don't know what you're missing! Not only can you have an interesting time hunting up your family tree, you'd be surprised what you find out that you didn't know. It's very time consuming and is hard work, so if you're not prepared to do a little bit of both, don't get started because once you do your hooked. Ask me, I'm hooked!!

THE COFFIN FACTORY

Yes, it is true! In 1880 there was a factory in Fairfield Center. Jerome Reynolds was the manufacturer. Often he sold his product to undertakers. If the order came from the local community the coffin was made after the person had died. The pattern had not changed for decades.

The wood used was poplar or pine. At that time poplar lumber was easily procured. Bot pine and poplar could be cut, planed and nailed perfectly. When the "box" was completed it was stained with what I heard Mr. Reynolds say was, "A dark cherry, almost black, quick drying stain, and then varnished." There was a wood cover stained like the "box". Other workmen could saw or nail the wood which had been cut out for them; but there was one thing they could not do.

At the head of the covvin there was a piece of wood cut out of the cover and a large glass inserted. Over the glass there was placed a very ornate lid, not a part of the long cover. Mr. Reynolds placed the glass and made the lid. He said, "If properly made and fitted it removed the plainness from the coffin."

Do you remember your first concept of death? When I was a lad under school age, my mother took me to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Reynolds. Mrs. Reynolds said, "Jerry take this little fellow with you to your shop." That day Mr. Reynolds gave me my first idea of death. He arranged his words to accommodate my immature mind. I listened with reserved doubts. And I became quiet and frightened when I hear him say to a workman, "This coffin is to be six feet long." He was very kind to me as he explained these new mysteries. Later when I could better understand, my mother told me many things about Mr. Reynolds and his strange work. I have a clear remembrance of her answers to my persistent questions concerning death, coffin and burial.

The coffins made by Mr. Reynolds were lined with a white material resembling lace; and there was a lace-like pillow at the head. Three handles upon each side drew my attention for they were as bright as silver dollars I had ever seen. The visit to the shop of Mr. Reynolds was never forgotten. Even now I remember him as if it were yesterday.

In 1880, and many years before and after that date, it was the custom after the funeral service conducted by the minister, for the undertaker to request each person present to walk slowly, one person following another, as they approached and passed the coffin. The ornate lid had been removed exposing the upper portion of the body.

During this strange march the organist played while the choir sang very emotional hymns; often rudely called "tear jerkers." When these men and women had return-

ed to their seats, the undertaker approached members of the family or families of the deceased. Each one went to the coffin to express his grief. As a boy and later as a minister, I revolted against this public portrayal of sorrow. Many of the ministers and singers of that fading period believed they had failed if they did not cause the mourners to weep bitterly, often loudly. Ministers today believe they have failed if they do not in their message cause the sorrowing to weep less.

During the second decade of the twentieth century this incident occurred. The soloist at a funeral service said, "I had my reward as I sang, because of the copious tears of the family." When I rebuked her for that statement I was severely criticized.

Today all this seems strange indeed. However for years after the dawn of our century, those in sorrow would tarry at the grave-side while the sexton filled the grave! As the earth, often clods, dropped upon the "rough box" congaining the coffin in the bottom of the grave, the sorrowing relatives would break out, in loud and weird lamentations. They returned to their homes uncomforted.

Eighty-three years ago everything associated with death was black. The hearse and the coffin or casket were very black. The hearse was drawn by black horses. Bibles were bound in black. The minister and the Undertaker wore black clothes. Those in sorrow wore black garments. Frequently men in sorrow wore a black band around one sleeve of the outer coat. During the funeral service in the church men in the sorrowing families did not remove their hats. Hats were removed at the graveside regardless as to weather conditions.

Women in sorrow wore heavy veils, unconscious of the fact that this custom may be traced back to primitive times when women wore heavy veils at the burial service to prevent the evil spirit from recognizing and harming them.

When a death occurred in the home the undertaker turned mirrows, often framed pictures, against the wall. In the first decade of the twentieth century this custom was continued by a few undertakers. In vain I endeavored to discover why this was ever practiced. No doubt it was a fading superstition.

If a death occurred in Fairfield Center or in the country the large bell in the tower of the Lutheran Church was heard. Following the ringing of the bell, there was one tap sounded for each year the deceased had lived. Citizens kept a mental list of the seriously ill, thur prepared to count the taps and determine who had died. Almost without exception the funeral service was conducted in the church. As the procession approached the church the bell was tolled; and this was repeated when the attendants left the church for the burial.

The early pioneers were self-sustaining and Fairfield Center and the surrounding country were not exceptions. Eignty-three years ago nearly every family had upon the back of the lot a number of buildings, including a chicken coop, a smoke house, a pig pen, and a small two story barn, large enough to accommodate a horse and cow, and a quantity of hay and straw, corn and oats in the second story.

The cow was necessary as no milk was sold anywhere. The horse was just as much needed, if the family could afford one. Often there was a shed built against one side of the barn where a buggy and a two sheel cart were kept.

In the pig pen one or two pigs were kept in the early autumn andfattened to provide meat for the winter. Often a steer was purchased in the late fall to provide beef for the family. The "bone meat" or the pigs was used immediately. The butchering came with the cold weather. Sausage and head cheese were made from portions of the pork. The large hams and shoulders of the pigs were well trimmed and sugarcured. Later they were smoked in the smoke house with smoke arasing from slowly burning hickory wood. When thoroughly smoked the hams and shoulders were placed in muslin bags and hung in the smoke house to be eaten in the spring and the long summer. They were well preserved.

Often strips of boneless beef were cut and smoked to provide dried beef for the family. It was very imperative for each family to provide these items for themselves as no canned food was sold in the stores excepting salmon and sardines.

In pioneer days hosiery was made in the home for the entire family. Mothers and grand-mothers, even young girls, were skilled in the art of knitting. They used wool yarn and common knitting needles in making shawls, scarfs, wristlets, stockings, socks, caps, mittens,etc. True a few of these could be purchased at the store; but I must remind you again that money was scarce.

The minister of the local church received a salary of $150.00 a year. This was not "self-sustaining." To this small income there was added each year at least two "donations." A Sunday School of about forty members was held each Sunday morning. The church service followed with a larger attendance. Usually there was a worship service conducted each Sunday evening. The minister preached at the Lutheran Church in Sedan each Sunday afternoon. During the week days the church building was locked securely, unless opened for a funeral service.

The only fuel for heating and cooking was wood. It was easily procured but required much hard work. Men, even small boys, made excellent use of the axe and saw. The division of labor in the pioneer home caused the boy or boys to assume the job of keeping the wood box

filled with wood cut the proper length for the stoves. Of Course, the boy or boys had for their use the axe and the bucksaw and the sawbuck. This is not a mistake as these strange words represented different essentials in home work in 1880.

Many of the families living in the small towns and in the country, had no light at night excepting that provided by tallow candles. These candles were made in the home. The first lamp for burning kerosene oil was made in 1860, some authorities maysay it was not in use generally until in the seventies of the nineteenth century. About 1880 many families in the small towns and the country did not have money to buy kerosene lamps. And the vast majority of these families considered the use of kerosene oil VERY dangerous.

In the pioneer days the population was overwhelmingly rural and these settlers were skilled in the art of making candles. Candle moulds and candle holders were on sale in every store.

It may be difficult for those who read these pages to imagine a small boy of seven years walking many miles alone after school closed on Friday afternoon, to the home of his grand-parents who lived all of their lives in a log house. At bed time, he was given a candle holder with a lighted candle in it and sent alone upstairs to bed. It was a cold night and the only heat in the entire upstairs in that log house was that which came from the stove pipe and emerged on the ground floor. And the fire in that stove burned low during the long cold nights and there wasn't much heat that "thimbled" through the floor.

He slept, or tried to sleep in a feather bed. Ifyou have never had this experience, you cannot understand what it is like. He could not get the feathers divided properly in the "tick." He told his grand-parents that he felt like the earth, hot in the middle and cold at both ends. He was more than ready to arise when they hammered upon the stove pipe and called that breakfast was ready. As it was still dark they gave him another lighted candle for the one which he "snuffed" out when he rolled into the feather bed. Breakfast was eaten by candle light. The grand-parents had retired; there was no reason why they should arise so early excepting force of habit. After breakfast there was nothing to do but sit and wait for daylight.

When he walked to his home in Fairfield Center on Sunday afternoon he told his mother he had "a bully good time." And he was earnestly telling the truth. He had walked along over a rough country road for near ly six miles. His grand-mother had candy and cookies and a pair of red mittens made just for him. She had attached to each mitten the end of a strong strand of yarn which was place over and around his neck to prevent him from losing a mitten. And he had helped his

grandma make candles which he brought home to present proudly to his mother. And last but not least he had escaped, for two days, his athletic exercise of sawing wood and carryuomg ot omtp tje wppd bpx!

During these cold, long winters pioneers had few matches. They were available but expensive for the masses, and I repeat money was scarce. The first friction match was made as early as 1834. Fire was kept somewhere in the house the greater portion of the year. Men and women lighted their clay tobacco pipes with coals from the stove or fireplace. Prior to 1834 and for many decades later, in the small towns and in the country of the middle west, the only match was a slender sulphur splint producing fire when drawn quickly through a double fold of sand paper. Much later than 1880 my grand-father had the sand paper and the sulphur splints. Do not misunderstand me. Matches were is use in 1880 in fairfield Township, but the average family had little money, hence they used matches if at all only when very necessary.

During the cold winters it was not unusual, in the morning, to discover that the wood pump had "froze up." Then water was heated and carried to the pump to thaw the ice so the family could have a supply of water for the home. Very often clean snow was melted to provide water.

An old weather report which I discovered, kept by a pioneer, indicates that eighty-three years ago the winters were long and unusually cold. Snow covered the ground from late autumn until the siddle of March, excepting "The January thaw." Sleighs and bob sleds were used continuously in the long winters. Buffalo Robes were in common use. The top of the robe was a Buffalo Hide, the long hair outside properly tanned, and lined by a tailor. Bells were placed upon the harness of the horses hitched to the bob-sleds and sleighs. Once heard one could never forget the "music" of the sleigh bells.

During my early boyhood I enjoyed the privilege of being with a genuine pioneer. She was ninety-two years old. Her body was strong, her mind clear and her memory good. She had lived in Fairfield Center for many years. The following are a few things she has told me. The first paragraph presents her peculiar lingo.

"Sonny I has lived a long time. Times has changed since I was a girl. Gals and wimmin are like boys and men. No one wants to work. That is what I calls work. Jails is full. Crime is on the up turn. Everyone is in debt. People has lost their sense and religion. The country is going to the dogs."

Her grand-mother had taught her how to make soap. There was very little manufactured soap on the market at Fairfield Center in 1880. She took pride in declarin she was the champion soap maker left in Indiana, as

she displayed awards presented for her excellent soap.

She told me when plain water passed through wood ashes it became strong lye. Neighbors had helped her place several old wood salt barrels, each one on a large poplar board. These were placed upon improvised platforms, which were made so one end of the board was lower. Beneath the low end of each board whe placed a small iron kettle. She filled the barrels with wood ashes and kept pouring water on the ashes at the top of each barrel. She cut creases in the low end of each board so the lye would flow easily into the kettles. She emptied the lye from the small kettles into a large kettle, she had hung from a hickory pole, each end of which rested upon wood boxes. When she had the proper quantity of lye in the large kettle, she really began to make soap.

She brought quantities of fat from pork and beef which she called "left overs" in the kitchen. She was careful not to tell me what else she placed in the large kettle. After kindling a fire under the kettle, she dismissed me and watched her task of soap-making. After a long time she called and showed me her product. It was soft soap. Dark and thinner then jelly. I was told that this was crude soap, used only for scrubbing and cleaning greasy pots and pans.

After she had removed the soft soap and cleaned the large kettle she began what she called, "making real soap." For several days she seemed to accumulate more lye which she put in the large kettle. When all seemed ready she brought from her home what she called refined fat from pork and beef. There were other ingredients which she did not explain to me. When she began to weigh and measure these things carefully; she dismissed me several times; finally I took the hint and left. Several days later she called me to her home and asked me to look upon her finished product. It was hard, white soap, as good and as fine as any soap I have ever seen or used. She did tell me she had gathered certain herbs which were put in the soap, "to give it a good smell". Grandma Martin was an unforgettable character. She stubbonrly refused to reveal her formula. It was buried with her.

During the autumn it was a common sight to see men and women diggin a hole in the soft earth of their garden. They dug a round hold about four feet in diameter and at least twelve inches deep. Into this hole they placed clean, dry wheat straw. From the large garden they pulled heads of carefully selected cabbage, untrimmed. These were placed upon the straw at the edge of the circular hole and around it, the heads turned toward the center of the hole. Other heads of cabbage were placed upon the first layer and this was continued until all the hole had a wall of cabbage. Then carefully picked apples, pears, turnips, etc., were placed

upon the straw in the center, until the fruit and vegetables resembled a mound. Upon the mound they placed much dry straw, and over the straw they shoveled, with care, at least fifteen inches of dry earth. Upon the earth mound they placed boards. When properly made the fruit and vegetables were fresh and good until early next spring.

During the winter when the family had consumed the vegetables and fruit stored in the cellar under the house they opened a small hole in this mound of earth and removed fresh vegetables and fruit as their needs required. The fruit and small vegetables were the first to be removed. They exercised much care in closing the hole each time the mound was opened.

The pioneers did not can vegetables or fruit. These were canned later than 1880. Raspberries, wild cherries apples, peas, and beans, and even sweet corn were dried. When prepared for drying they were placed upon racks made of lath and covered with paper and muslin.

The ears of sweet corn were prepared and boiled in a largeboiler. As it cooled the corn was cut from the cobs, then it was ready to be dried. Apples were peeled with a peeler which did excellent work. When each apple was quartered and cored and slized it was ready for drying. These wood racks were then placed with fruits and vegetables in an oven at very low heat, (often in an outdoor oven.) More otfen the wood containers were placed upon a tin roof to be dried by the sun. Fruit and vegetables dried this way were enjoyed through the winter. After they were dried they were placed in muslin bags and labeled. Properly dried they seldom spoiled.

During the hot summer, cream, milk and butter for table use were often placed in a tinor wood pail to which was attached a long rope. The pail and contents were lowered into the "dug" well. When meal time came they were drawn from the well, and they were cold.

In the country near Fairfield Center there were milk houses, used only during the summer. These were one room gabled buildings with no floor but the earth. There was a large, long home made box of native lumber with the top open and each end closed. This long box was inside of the milk house. At the lower end there was a sliding board which was opened when necessary to drain out warm water. The cold water supply for this channel was brought in the milk house from a nearby spring or well. The open top of the box was wide enough to receive easily gallon crocks. In these crocks were placed milk, cream, butter and even "smearcase." There was a small hole in the lower end of the channel so the water never arose above the top of the crocks. Over each crock there was a very clean, planed poplar lid. I never saw a milk house that was not kept very clean.

During the early spring the roads were often almost

impassable. Doctors made their calls upon patients, riding horse back. Often the mail carrier sat in the saddle upon his horse as he delivered and received mail which was in bags hung upon the pummel of the saddle. Usually these muddy and often rough roads did not continue long in the spring.

FOR MEN ONLY

Of more than ordinary interest is the fact that in Fairfield Center about 1880, we were told that at least eighty-five percent of the adult male population wore some kind of hirsute appendage. The most common were whiskers. Quite often they were well trimmed and very long. Frequently the proud owner of a long, heavy beard would tell a boy like me, "Sonny, it protects my throat. I do not have colds and sore throat! And I do not fear "lung-fever!."

Eighty-three years ago the story was told of a man living in Fairfield Township who wore a long, beautiful beard. One day his little grand-daughter was sitting upon his lap running her fingers through his beard. Suddenly she asked, "Grandpa, what do you do with your long beard at night?" Very much surprised he answered, "Well, child, I do not know; but I will let you know in the morning!"

That night Grandpa went to bed a disturbed, depressed man. No one had ever asked him such a question! His long beard, the pride of his life, had never bothered him much at night. He placed his heavy beard upon the covers, and was very uncomfortable. He tucked the beard beneath the covers and it seemed to choke him. He tried lying upon one side, then upon the other side. No relief was in sight. He arose in desperation, procured a pair of large shears and cut the whiskers off below his chin; then he slept soundly.

Many a young man not caring to raise a beard, preferred chin whiskers, a few "bristles" upon the center of the lower lip, commonly called a goatee because they resembled the whiskers of a Billy Goat. Others wore a beard, excepting the upper lip was shaved. Not a few men had what were called, "Side Burns or Mutton Chops." The face was shaved smoothly excepting each side of the face above the lobes of the ears. It was not uncommon to see youngermen wearing a mustache. All the face was shaved excepting the upper lip. Often the mustache measuring nearly ten inches from tip to tip. Instead of straining coffee through the mustache, he used a mustache cup, an antique today.

PIONEERING UPON AN AMERICAN FRONTIER

One of my friends, the father of James B. Bower, was WISE MAN number four. He was a typical pioneer upon an

American Frontier, during the nineteenth century. He lived for more than one hundred years and he lived not in vain. When he was dying, a physician in Fairfield Center said to the family, There is no disease in this man's body and mind. The peculiar machine we call his human body was completely worn out."

When Mr. Bower was old and I was young he answered for me the question which is easily implied in the subject of this chapter. I wrote that which he said, reading it again to him for any corrections, to enable me to quote him accurately. His words here revealed have been used many times by me. The words even now are an inspiration. He is another unforgettable character in my memory. God bless the memory and influence of such a man.

"Young man you have asked me to present that which I think has been the dynamic power and the ultimate purpose of an American Pioneer upon the ever-western movement of the American Frontier."

"During my long experience as a pioneer I have cut down trees of the forest, and raised crops where crops had never been raised. I have placed livestock where livestock has never been. I have built two homes for myself and my family, one of them a log house. I have drained swamps, and helped build roads and bridge streams. I aided my neighbors in erecting and furnishing two church buildings, and one of the first log school houses in DeKalb County. I have fought successfully the drought, the flood, the pestilence and the famine. I have fought the miasma of sloughs. I resisted, unafraid, the dangers of frontier experiences which threatened my family and me. I have fought a thousand battles with myself. I have fought all these and I have won." Then he paused and hung his head as if solemn medita tion; and added, "God and I have fought and won!"

The above is a marvelous portrayal of the indomitable will, the never-die courage, the persistent perserverance and the unrelenting determinationof many a pioneer facing the ever-moving frontier, and preparing the way for the progressive civilization which has followed such heroic service.

A PERTINENT QUESTION

Since the writer has of necessity written these pages several times, friends who have read them have asked germane questions. I shall mention one.

"Is your interest in and your almost reverence for the past,due to your advanced age?" Without doubt an affirmative answer must be given to this question. It is quite natural and certainly very human for one to respect his antecedents. It becomes more true as one grows older. This fact alone creates a lively interest

in the history of days long since past.

But when anyone declares that the pioneers were so much better than the people of today, or the present is so much superior to the past, it is well to mix reason with sentiment, fact with fancy or fiction.

The pioneers of whom I have been writing were living vigorously, perhaps dangerously, as they faced so many strange and untried experiences on the American Frontier. They were compelled to be self-sufficient every day. They were not so different from us excepting of necessity they had to live simply, practically and not unhappily. Doubtless they developed some characteristics and habits which we might do well to emulate.

Often they had to deal quickly with new and difficult problems, including lawlessness which frequently required an aroused and quickened community conscience.

In a western county where I once lived there was an Anti-Horse Thief Association, to which I belonged. No horse had been stolen in that county for very many years. This Association was perpetuated to recall the days when this type of lawlessness was common, and to remember the successful manner in which the pioneers solved the problem. In those far-away days in that county they would hang a man for horse stealing before they would hang a man for murder. It did not mean that these sensible people believed that horse stealing was a greater crime than murder. It did mean that in that county they had created an awakened and quickened community conscience concerning the crime of horse stealing, and when that crime was committed the criminal was quickly apprehended and summarily dealt with; not by officers of the law, but by brave and determined men representing the pioneers.

If it is possible in one period of our history to create and maintain an aroused and quickened community conscience upon one crime disturbing organized society; why in the name of reason is it not possible to have an awakened and aroused community conscience upon every crime disturbing our societal peace and welfare?

Today we make a sad mistake when we think there is inherent power in a law placed upon the statute books. Law is merely a vehicle in which power may ride. It is next to impossible for good law enforcing officers to cope successfully with crime unless back of them and the law there is an awakened and aroused citizenry. That lesson many of our pioneers taught us. Well may we study their experience.

These pioneers were no better and no worse than we are today. Human nature has changed very little since the dawn of recorded history. Honesty, truthfulness, fairness, justice and unselfishness; and hate, dishonesty, injustice, greed, and stealing are the same today as they were in 1880. We learn slowly to inhibit certain tendencies and desires, but human nature changes little if at all.

LOOKING BACKWARD

I returned to the scene of my boyhood,
After many a long year had passed;
For years I had dreamed of this visit,
Which had become a reality at last.

The hills were mountains in my boyhood,
In valleys were wild rushing streams,
Distance would lend its enchantment,'
As I walked many miles in my dreams.

I found my heart sinking within me,
When everything old had changed,
Just as if through some magical power,
The new was planned and arranged.

Now distance seemed lost in my memory,
And the wild rushing streams, a brook.
The mountains had vanished forever,
My face wore a most startled look.

The house which I thought was a mansion,
Was no more than a cottage that day,
The church which had been a cathedral,
Was so small, I had nothing to say.

Is it true that the eyes of my boyhood,
Magnified everything, without a mar,
And the eyes of my mature manhood,
Can see things as they actually are?

I'm glad for the experiences of boyhood,
When things looked so big and so grand.
And if in my old age they shrink some,
I will smile and somehow understand.

written by

MYRON L. PONTIUS

I wish I would have had the privilage of meeting Mr. Pontius. He must have been a wonderful man! If you ever get the chance to read some of his other books, do so, they are quite enlightening.

FAIRFIELD TWP. HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB

The Home Demonstration club in Fairfield Township was organized in the fall and winter of 1921. Mrs. Laura Smith, Mrs. Lillie Mertz and Mrs. Bess Harmes met first to plan the program. Mrs. Harmes was the first president and served a number of years.

The roads were piled high with snow but that didn't discourage mrs. Harmes. She and Mabel Fisher made a tour of the township in a sleigh, taking a shovel along as a safety precaution. These two ladies canvassed the township asking each lady to join, charging them 10¢ dues. Later the dues were 25¢. The first club meetings were held in the Pleasant Hill Church.

In 1922, a millinery school was held, with 40 members taking part. There were 15 hats made in two days. A saving from $3 to $7 on each hat. Later on that year the women made dress forms. They also heldped to make three cook books.

At one time the club had over 100 members, but in 1949, there were 55 active members. In the meantime, the meetings were held in the Fairfield Community Building in the summer and in the winter at the homes of the members.

In 1971, the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. There were seven 50 year members who were honored. They were Mrs. Josie Grate, Mrs. Clara Mertz, Mrs. Mae Stomm, Mrs. Pearl Smith, Mrs. Etta Rowe, Mrs. Alvadah Ober and Mrs. Hazel Foster.

The club is now called the Fairfield Township Extension Homemaker's Club and has at present 45 members. The club meets regularly each month for afternoon meetings only.

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THE JOLLY DOZEN CLUB

The Jolly Dozen Club is another Fairfield club that is over 50 years old. It started back when a bunch of 12 neighborhood women decided to have a get together to work on sewing at each other's houses and making quilts. The original twelve members were: Mrs. Mary McGiffin, Mrs. Laura McCullough, Mrs. Bess Leins, Mrs. Martha Sherlock, Mrs. Rosa Sherlock, Mrs. Lemo Stonebraker, Mrs. Myra Campbell, Mrs. Emma Lutman, Ottie Conrad, Mrs. Etta Rowe, Mrs. Lulu Becker and Mrs. Lena Sherlock.

They still have meetings although they don't get together as often as they once did. Now if they get together once or twice a year they think they are doing good. They still have a good time though.

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Onthe next page is a picture of the "Grand Army of the Republic" taken around the turn of the Century. These were all Civil War Veterans.

Now since I've ran out of things to put in, I'm going to start picking out some articles that were printed in the papers that Harry Holmes loaned me. Most of them were in the 194 and 1915 so I will just print the issue date and the article as it was written them.

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December 8, 1915 - Skating now in season.

Roller skating is again the predominating exercise in Corunna. The new hall maple floor especially adapted and laid for skating and with a surface of 40x120 feet free of posts and obstructions, affords the skating and dancing amusement public of this vicinity every pleasure and convenience enjoyed by those of our largest cities. The Rink will open Wednesday night, Dec. 8th, and each Wednesday and Saturday evening thereafter will be reserved for the healthful exercise of skating.

By special treatment of the floor the Zonkers are prepared with special chemicals, wherein they can maintain a perfect skating also dancing surface without conflicting or marring the contrasting qualities of floor surface for either skating or dancing.

The opening public dance is booked for Friday evening, Dec. 17th and will be held regularly every two weeks thereafter. The Corunna Orchestra consisting of eight pieces has been engaged for the season and in every consideration, particular attention has been given and no money has been spared for the making of the Zonker Hall, one of the grandest amusement enterprise in the country.

The management extends to all who will obey the simple rules of obedience and behavior, a cordial invitation to attend either or both skating or dancing at any time during the season. By order of Edw. Zonker, Prop.
F.A. Zonker, Mgr.

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Dec 8, 1915 - Shenandoah, Ia.,

Driving five dogs hitched to an Alaskian mail sled, Miss Estelle Mason, of Nome, Alaska, is completing a queer world's tour. She finished her journey at Cincinnati, having traveled 32,000 miles. If she arrives at San Francisco with two of her original dogs and the mail sled, she will receive $12,500.

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Dec. 8, 1915 - MORE AUTOS IN AUBURN

The McIntyre Plant which went in the Hands of the Receivers some time have sold out, and Plant will reopen soon. Articles of incorporation for the DeKalb Manufacturing company in the sum of $150,000 have been filed. This concern takes over the McIntyre factory. Two style of automobiles are to be built, the DeKalb Jr., Four cylinders, for $695, and DeKalb Sr., six cylinders, for $1,050. None of the parts will be manufactured here. It will be wholly an assembling plant.

Friday Feb. 19, 1915 - CORUNNA IS USED AS EXAMPLE OF HOW TO RUN A TOWN - Hamilton's Editor came here to get facts showing that corporation does not mean burdensome taxes.

Since the Corunna News published the facts concerning the financial condition of the town of Corunna, the fame of this city has traveled over much of northern Indiana and has provoked so much discussion as to make Corunna a sort of example for all the other small towns in the state to follow.

The latest illustration of this is found in the visit of Cliff Johnson, of the hamilton news, during the week. Mr. Johnson came here to secure a copy of the News and to learn additional facts concerning the town and its finances.

As is generally known, Corunna has the lowest tax rate of any town in this part of the state, notwithstandig that it has a fire department, municipal light plant and many other good things only possible in an incorporated town.

A number of progressive citizens of Hamilton are just now agitating the matter on incorporating the town of Hamilton, which up to this time, has no real community form of government.

Whatever opposition now exists is said to come from a number of wealthy citizens who claim that the incorporation of the place will greatly increase the taxes and make street paving and other unneccessary improvements a matter of obligation.

On the other hand, some of the substantial citizens are anxious to incorporate and one of them has offered to build a new $10,000 brick block in case this is done.

Mr. Johnson found on investigation that it is possible for a small place to maintain its corporate esixtence without burdening the people with taxes and moreover, to give them the chance to get public improvement without heavy cost.

In case Hamilton is incorporated it is not expected to take in the schools, but to leave them in the hands of the township.

Corunna people may well feel proud over the fact that their town is regarded as a model to pattern after.

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Thursday August 19, 1915 - GET UP CLOSER

There is always something funny happening around this funny place. - One of our country lads has a horse by the name of Closer, and he is a horse that certainly enjoys listening to what his master is trying to tell his sweetheart, and lags back and does not care to travel very fast at times. The other evening as they were out riding, they were talking and laughing and the horse began to lag back, and the boy spoke to the horse in a mild way, and said "get up closer," The girl did not

know that the horse's name was Closer so she sat up a little closer. Riding along a little farther the horse began to lag, and this time he spoke a little more harsh to the horse, " Get Up Closer," the girl did so and the horse joged up a little way at a good pace, and the boy was crowded back in the corner of the seat so tight that he could scarcely speak when she would talk to him. The horse slowed down to a walk and as the poor fellow was crowded so tight in the corner that he was by this time a vexed at his walking so slow and making the short road long, he spoke in disgust "Get up Closer," well the horse did get up and go some and the girl got up closer too. He saw by this time that he did not dare to speak to the horse again or she might sit on his lap, so he said nothing for some time until all out of breath he said, "My Dear Lady," I was only speaking to my horse, to travel a little faster, and as the horse's name is Closer, when speaking to it you certainly thought I was scolding you for sitting on your own side of the buggy."

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Thursday April 3, 1913 - THE FIRST GAME

"The game opened with Molasses at the stick. Smallpox was catching. Cigar was in the box and had plenty of smoke. Horn was playing first base and Fiddle playing second. Corn was in the field, Apple was Umpire. When Ax came to bat he chopped; one Cigar let Cake walk and Saw-dust filled the bags. Song made a hit and Twenty made a score. Every foot of ground kicked and they said Apple was rotten. Balloon started to pitch but went up to the air. Then Cherry tried it but was wild. When Spider caught the fly the crowd cheered. Needle tried to umpire. He was sharpe enough but only had one eye. Ice he kept cool until he was hit by a pitched ball. Then you should have heard Ice Cream. Cabbage had a good head and kept quiet. Grass covered lots in the field. Orange refused to play. Hornet stung the ball and it fell in the hands of Clock. Bread loafed around until they put him out. In the fifth inning Wind blowed around what he could do and Hammer began to knock. Then the trees began to leave; Knife was put out for cutting first base. The crowd roasted Peanut all through the game, and every one kicked when they put Light out. Balloon went up in the air, just as soon as the pigs began to root. Apple told Fiddle to take his base. Oats was shocked. Song made another hit and Trombone tried to slide but was out. Then Meat was put out at the plate. The score was 1 to 0 and the game was over. There was a lot of betting on the game and Soap cleaned up. The police arrested two Cabbage heads who tried to put their heads together and the crowd decided to disperse.

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Mrs. Orris Wise was down at the Fort Wayne Library the other day and found a census of Corunna taken in 1870. and it listed all the people by their business. If your families name doesn't appear here, it was because they were farmers. This was the list:

1.	David Adams	Butcher
2.	John Q. Adams	Clerk in Hardware Store
3.	William Adams	Hardware Merchant
4.	Benjamin Ausburn	Manufacture of Lumber
5.	Henry Ausburn	Sawyer
6.	Henry Baughman	Engineer
7.	George Calwell	Agricultural Agent
8.	Benjamin Cissell	Physician and Drugist
9.	Chalen D. Cogsdell	Freight Agent
10.	Aaron Crossley	Carpenter
11.	Joseph DePew	Dry Goods Merchant
12.	Sam DePew	Clerk in Dry good Store
13.	Henry Devore	Shoemaker
14.	Etta Drake	Teaching school
15.	Henry Espy	Harness Maker
16.	J. S. Farr	Cattle Broker
17.	John Finch	Wagon Maker
18.	Charles French	Engineer
19.	Sam Getts	Miller
20.	Samuel Hatch	Grocer
21.	Isaac Looms	Minister
22.	Murry Mareti	Lumber Agent
23.	Chancy G. Marsh	Hardward Merchant
24.	Stephen Masters	Wagon Maker
25.	William Mercer	Physician
26.	Isaac Metz	Carpenter
27.	John Mohter	Tailor
28.	Samuel Nall	Tinsmith
29.	Jophata Sellers	Clerk in Dry goods store
30.	L. Shaeffer	Blacksmith
31.	Sharles Sherlock	Cabinet Maker
32.	Andrew Snyder	Bracksmith
33.	Jacob Sprinkle	Saddler
34.	Ed Stone	Carpenter
35.	Simeon Tarney	Butcher
36.	Jefferson Wallace	Clerk in Grocery

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Thursday - February 22, 1912

Some of Corunna's musicians have organized an' Orchestra and ere long the sweet strains of heavenly music will be floating out o'er the hill tops and we will be charmed. Wm. Tucker is the leader and some of Corunna's best make up the organization.

Success to the new orchestra is our wish.

Thursday - February 22, 1912, Vol. 1 no. 1
WEEK-DAY SERMONS AND STRAY SHOTS BY PARSON RUBE.

Begged, Borrowed and Begotten.

The Fast man is pretty certain to fall behind.

A compliment is never as great as it might be.

Everybody is willing to impose on a good cook.

One way to cure a conceited man is to forget him.

It will probably never be known what the hand-saw.

What three vowels express trouble? I O U.

Be sure you are right, and then don't make a fuss about it.

There is many a man who isn't worth what it costs him to live.

Every dog has his day, and too many of them have their nights also.

Those who see the least in others are the ones who use their I's the most.

Nature is a good doctor, but she makes her patients pay to the last cent.

The blacksmith may be an expert forger without being arrested for it.

Never judge the strength of a man's character by the size of his muscle.

Success often comes from knowing what to expect and when to expect it.

What the corn heard with its own ears, the potato saw with its own eyes.

Few men know what is good for them until some wise woman has told them.

About the most expensive thing a man can do is to associate with cheap people.

A man doesn't dread becoming bald as much as a woman dreads becoming fat.

There must be money in writing poetry. Very few people ever get any out of it.

Bee stings for rheumatism may be all right, but will rheumatism cure bee stings?

A contary man is one who doesnot believe in the things his neighbors believe in.

If a girl receives a letter and doesn't read it over three times, it isn't a love letter.

Some more of the nudest styles in women's dress are on the way over from France.

The rich are known by their dollars, but the humble onion is known by its scent.

The man who is always treading on other people's toes should do his walking in his sleep.

Bank deposits guaranted to stand wear and tear would be mightly popular with the people.'

The man who gets ahead in the world is the one who makes hay whether the sun shines or not.

If every man did as his conscience dictates, the census enumerator in hades would lose his job.

Keep your thoughts pure and sweet and you need not worry about the utterances of your mouth!!

Good streets are all right - but they are nevertheless poor educational institutions for the youth of the city.

Nine out of ten times the man who wails that the world is against him is just put out because he can't lean against the world.

It is easier to climb down a tree than to climb up, which explains why the top is never crowded and why there is always room there.

Women live longer than men because they do not worry so much if they do not become famous. It just about kills a man if he doesn't attract attention.

Reduction of the price of rubbers is announced and that may be considered good news, provided of course the reduction extends as far as the ultimate consumer.

A traveling electrician has been arrested in Denver on the charge of theft and it is said that nearly 3,000 articles of value were found in his apartments that he had appropriated. If all thieves were as industrious as he there wouldn't be much chance for honest people

Auburn Shoppers Guide September, 1953
DEKALB FAIR HAS COLORFUL HISTORY BY H. EARL HUSSELMAN

"Fairs and expositions are the time pieces which mark the progress of nations." This statement was made by President William McKinley in a speech delivered on the grounds of the Buffalo Exposition but a few short hours before an assassin's bullet ended his life. In fact fairs are an ancient institution, even the early Eqyptians had fairs. It is said that the first fair in the United States was held in North Carolina prior to the Revolutionary War. In early days fairs were a common meeting place for all the people. a sort of social event. Where did Grandfather meet Grandmother? At the County Fair of course!

In the middle west the period of 1850 to 1870 was known in agricultural history as the Golden Age of Agricultural Fairs because of the rapidity at which fairs sprang up. The first fair to be held in our own DeKalb County was in the early 1850's on the Tom Ford farm east of Cedar Creek. Leonard Hoodelmier built the fence inclosing it. There were some exhibits although there was no premium money available for the first fair. A foot race was one of the main attractions at the first fair. In 1855 for some unknown reason the fair was not held on the fair ground but on the Court House grounds instead. A horse race was a sensation that year. In 1859 the DeKalb County Agricultural Society was formed. Wesley Park leased to the directors of the association seven acres of ground lying north of Park's Addition to the town plat along the road running from Auburn to Waterloo. This plat of ground was about three or four blocks north of where the Auburn YMCA is now. The lease was for a term of eight yearsl The Association was to build a board fence seven feet high on the north and east side and the remainder within one year. Auburn was a quiet little village of about 500 inhabitants at this time.

It seems that due to the Civil War and other reasons intervening it was decided to abandon the county fairs and none were held immediately after 1861. In 1870 a county fair was organized at Spencerville and was held in the log yard. It seems that the fair was not much of a successs and we have no record of any fairs held there after that.

The third effort to organize and maintain a county fair was at Waterloo in 1871. This movement was started because a new law at that time provided that every county in the state having such an organization would receive $500 from the State in support for such an enterprise. A group of men organized the Northeastern Indiana Agricultural association on the stock plan. The capital was fixed at $10,000 and there were 100 shares. A tract of land comprising 31¼ acres adjoin-

ing Waterloo on the north was purchased for holding fairs. A good half mile track was built and show of pacing, running and trotting horses was a great success and was for that time rather a new feature for county fairs. The waterloo Fair continued for many years and was a success financially. The waterloo press in its issue of October 8th, 1890 in describing the fair said "There were 465 plates of fruit and over 50 horses in the speed ring and all the other departments filled to over flowing." The Waterloo Fair was thoroughly identify with all classes of people in northeastern Indiana.

In the year 1889 a group of business men from Auburn and farmers mostly from the south part of the county realized the benefits and advantages to be derived from a fair ground at Auburn at which competitive exhibits could be held for the improvement of livestock machinery and handiwork. As a result there was recorded on the 17th of October 1889 the "DeKalb County Fair - organized for agricultural purposes to improve livestock, and to promote and encourage mechanical and all other useful arts also to exhibit the same embracing DeKalb and all adjoining counties." This association purchased 70 acres east of Eckhart Avenue, erected buildings and built one of the finest half mile tracks in the state.

This fair at first gave great promise of success. Milo Calkins of Corunna with his 16 piece band furnished music for the first fair. In 1890 this society changed its name to "The Auburn District Fair." This organization seemed to be doomed for a short life. It seemed to never be quite able to get on its feet financially and after two or three years was abandoned and soon became a memory of the past.

The Waterloo Fair continued on for a few years further but due to the existance of two county fairs and a depression of business that prevailed in the country at that time, it too was forced to close after a long and persistent effort to survive.

The fairs fell off then until 1932 when a fair was held in Auburn and has continued with varying success. No fair was held in 1941 due to the Polio epidemic. Sometime in the 1920's the 4-H clubs began to make their appearance in DeKalb County so when the fair was reorganized in 1932 the 4-H was organized to such an extent that they could help carry on the work. At the present time the 4-H clubs exhibit most of the livestock and poultry shown in DeKalb County. There are many projects carried on in the 4-H clubs work, some of them as follows: Baking, Food Preparation, Sewing, Canning, Gardening, Electrical, Home Improvement, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Orchard, pigs and many other miscellaneous projects. People of DeKalb County should realize the importance of a good fair which is a show case of the finest of our crops and livestock. Through the fine cooperation of the Cream of our Youth a wide

variety of displays, mostly competitive, present the best our community offers. Here is education and entertainment for every age. Don't miss your fair! Find time to attend!

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Thursday, August 19, 1915 - THE CORUNNA BUDGET

Dan treesh sez that the man that invented mashed potatoes, must've had bad teeth.

"The wages of sin are the only ones that are always raised to corresponed with the efforts of the wage earner." cording to Squire Tody Wiltrout story.

Charley Thomas sez he was the man that shot the holes in the swiss cheese, and put bug in buggy.

Bill Zonker sez that if you vant to pincha da fruat, please pincha the cocunuts. He also sez that cocunuts are south Mercian taters with hair on.

"Figures duz no ly sez Red Goodwin." Ts the darned old ink and pads that duz the lion.

Aaron Griffith sez when "women git to vot they wil put the booze on the hook.

Walt Reynolds sez that the bacholor is the only hunted animal that there is no closed season on - hard luck for Tucker.

Cordin to the story of Bert Reed many a family tree grows nothing but lemons.

Dr. Browne sez, "that when a soman sez she is going down to pik out a dres her husband has a bad tact of palpitation of th' pocketbook, but when Eve started out to pick a new dress it never worried Adam at all."

A man carries his money in his picket, sez loyd Ostor an when a highway man desires t' take it away from him he ups on sez hold up yer hands, and a women carries her coin in her stockin'. Now in a case like dat, wat in the world would respectable highwayman do in a case like dat.

If the hello girl would be more prompt in answering some of the calls, there would not be so many at the other end of the string reversing what the operator sez when she answers the call, "Hello" "Ohell."

Matrimony sez Forrest Zonker, is mity often a case of matter-o'-money.

This is a list (I hope I haven't forgotten any of them) of the businesses in Corunna in 1975. Listing is in alphabetical order and the newest business althou gh not yet built is being built, so I have listed it also. That would be the Carter Lumber Company.

1.	Jack and Lois Albright	Grocery Store
2.	Harry Allen	Logging and Trucking
3.	Ivan Buckmaster	Machinery and equipment
4.	Carter Lumber Company	Lumber and Supplies
5.	Corunna Hardware	Hardware supplies
6.	Wayne Curry	Antiques and used furniture
7.	Helen Days	Beautian
8.	Steven Faulkner	Logging and trucking busi.
9.	Bob Franks	Plumbing and heating
10.	Joyce Getts	Beautian
11.	Heinhold Market	Marketing of Hogs
12.	Jays Building and Cons.	General contractors and roofing
13.	Jordan Construction	General Contractors
14.	Don Martz, Pres.	Design Sales & Engineering, inc. Electric Heating
15.	William Molargick	Auctioneer
16.	Raymond Oster	Post master
17.	Pankpo Stautuaries	All kind of Lawn Ornaments
18.	Paul and Bud Payton	New and used Furniture
19.	Ralph Payton	Auctioneer
20,	Charley Patterson	Corunna Bedding Co.
21.	Frank Pickard	Garage
22.	Paul Reinold	Auctioneer
23,	Dorsey Roop	Television and Radio Repair
24.	Sedan Motel	Motel and travel lodge
25.	Herman Seigel	Barbershop
26.	R. G. and G. Incorporation	- Machinery repair
27.	Orley and Helen Smith	Tavern
28.	Orley Smith, Jr.	Well Drilling
29.	Squier Sawmill	Pallet Industry and Building materials.
30.	Fairy Stomm	Beautian
31.	Strawser Bros.	General Construction Work
32,	United Telephone Co.	General telephone exchange
33.	Frank Wehr	Exterior Painting
34.	Cecil Wells	Excavating and trucking
35	Roger Woodcock	Fairfield Nursery


Here's Wishin' You
1938
GOOD LUCK
HAPPY NEW YEAR
MERRY XMAS
Excess Baggage
F. FINCH



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